TRAVELS

INTO

FRANCE and ITALY.

IN A

Series of LETTERS to a LADY.

VOL. II.

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LONDON:

Printed for T. BECKET and P. A. DE HONDT,
in the *Strand*.

M.DCC.LXXI.

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MDCCLXX.

LETTER XXVII.

FROM Lyons we dined at Condrieu; where I think we had the moſt excellent and cheapeſt repaſt I ever yet beheld; the advantages of the country are, in this reſpect, loſt, when Engliſh travel alone. Our own party conſiſted of two Engliſh and three French; to which we added three or four more for the dining company. A bill of fare is not very amuſing; but this was ſo extraor-

dinary, I ſhould give it if my memory would permit; as it will not, I ſhall only ſay, in the ſervice of Roti, we had all kinds of fowls, game, and birds; amongſt the latter were ortolans, and a kind, peculiar to the country, preferable to ortolans. We had the wine of this place, which pleaſes me better than any other in France. Two ladies, who had drank none of that liquor ſince they left Paris, were content with le vin de Condrieux. We paid but eighteen pence a head Engliſh money, and the gentleman who managed our affairs, ſaid at the table d'hote, with the ſame fare they were ſtill cheaper.—The rapidity of the Rhone is ſo notorious, any remarks I could make on that head would be too trite to deſerve reading. When the boat paſſed

under

under the Pont du Saint Eſprit, I was ſurpriſed to find ſo little danger, having heard, from a French prieſt, (and a man of underſtanding) it was neceſſary to be blindfold, to prevent the terrors which might attend ſeeing the riſque of this paſſage; at the ſame time he ſaid the bridge was the moſt wonderful and the fineſt in the world: I found as little truth in one part of his intelligence as the other. This edifice has nothing extraordinary, but great length, to which the breadth bears no proportion; nor has it any beauty, except what is derived from the idea of its utility. The rapidity of the river might occaſion ſome difficulties; yet, as they have been ſurmounted in ſo many different places, one cannot make them the ſubject of wonder. We had

what they called a bad voyage: an Engliſh gentleman ſeeing the ſailors aukward, expreſſed his wiſhes for two or three Britiſh. A Frenchman, half angry half complimenting, ſaid, you are better without them, Sir; they would know, and tell the danger you are in, of which you are not perfectly ſenſible, or your countenance would not be ſo compoſed: We acknowledge your ſuperiority in theſe affairs, and your merit in many others; but deſire you will allow ſome to your neighbours; though it is not on this occaſion we ſhall make any claim. An Engliſh lad, for the aſſiſtance given, three or four years ſince, upon the Rhone, in a violent ſtorm, upon his arrival at Avignon, was carried before a magiſtrate, to be examined as a ſpy or a conjurer,

I can-

I cannot tell which; a gentleman and his wife, who directed our journey from Briare, choſe this method of going to Avignon, as being the moſt expeditious and cheapeſt; it proved the reverſe.——The approach to Avignon is very beautiful, the town is ſmall, the ramparts are ſingularly handſome. This city is the reſort of much ancient nobleſſe, whoſe fortunes are not large enough to make Paris their winter reſidence. I know ſcarce any provincial town where there are ſo many fine hotels. The ſociety, I am told, is very good. This city being the Pope's, is full of convents and clergy, who make more beggars than the benevolence of the biſhops can aſſiſt, though very great. The charity of the Roman Catholic religion is like breaking a man's leg,

and then relieving the conſequent diſtreſs. The Penitens Gris have a chapel here; which pleaſes me more than any thing of the ſame kind I ever beheld. The building has three diviſions, going through two chapels to the principal; where is the perpetual adoration du Saint Sacrament. The manner in which the altar is illuminated and decorated, has ſomething more impoſing, and ſtrikingly ſolemn, than can be conceived: It is impoſſible to enter this edifice without a certain degree of reverence. The whole building, though very ſmall, is perfectly well adapted to its uſe. A poor old man was proſtrate before the altar, performing with great zeal the miſtaken duties of the place. The Catholics aſſert, they have the ſame right to the profeſſion of their religion

ligion in Proteſtant, as the Reformed in Catholic Countries: To the private enjoyment and exerciſe they certainly have, but the public being ſo impoſing, ſpeaking to the ſenſes, and not to reaſon; it would be very improper to expoſe the common people to ſuch a ſeduction, and the ſpecious arguments of the clergy. The proceſſion of the feaſt du Saint Sacrament, is very ſplendid and ſtriking in large towns, where there is a cathedral, and the religious orders very numerous. I once read an advertiſement on that occaſion, which appeared very extraordinary:

"The angels are deſired to attend "preciſely at ſix o'clock."

To explain this, children are dreſſed according to the French idea of angels,

with much riband, gold, ſilver, &c. and walk to heighten the dignity of the proceſſion. You have only to ſee the feaſt of St. Nicolas, and ceaſe wondering the people are ſo much attached to a religion which gives them, in ſome dioceſes, ſixty or ſeventy days of mirth, muſic and dancing, beſides ſunday; where the biſhops are ſo wiſe as to abridge their holidays, that their children may have bread; every ſtorm which blaſt the vines, or other public ill, is imputed to his defect in veneration for the ſaints. Some company called upon me this afternoon, to go with them to ſee the Dutcheſs de Crillon's hotel (as to the Duke, I ſcarce ever heard him mentioned); it is a fine houſe, but has nothing ſingular enough to deſerve a viſit: in the hall is a large picture, an original, in which

is repreſented Henry the fourth, and many of his courtiers; amongſt theſe perſonages is diſtinguiſhed, as you may imagine, the Duke de Crillon; you are not unacquainted with his great and noble character: that monarch had ſeveral perſons in his court whom nature ſeemed to have formed for his friends and companions; how great a number of his ſubjects were unworthy ſuch a reign! witneſs his death, by the thirty-ſixth conſpiracy, when he was planning ſchemes for the aggrandiſement and happineſs of his people. In the apartment of the Dutcheſs is a Magdalen much eſteemed, by Guido; in another is a picture of Mademoiſelle de Crillon, who is extremely pretty, but has taken the veil in the ſevere order of the Carmelites, where they are not per-

mitted to ſee the neareſt relation, without an expreſs order from the biſhop of the dioceſe. The French aſſure me, the faſhion of forcing children into convents declines every day; I believe it may; but I know ſo many inſtances, as are very ſtriking to an Engliſh perſon; for a very ſmall part of what happens in this kingdom can come within the knowledge of a ſtranger, particularly of that kind. As to the young lady abovementioned, her ſtate may be voluntary, for aught I can ſay to the contrary: what is very odd, I have heard the ſevere orders are more frequently ſo than others. The family de Crillon did live in a very magnificent ſtyle; at preſent ſhe has only the petit ſouper, and receives none who are not particularly preſented. From this ho-

tel I went to ſee the chapel of Les Peres de l'Oratoire, eſteemed a fine piece of architecture; it has, I think, nothing ſingular, except the figure, which is a ſmall rotunda. Near this city is the celebrated fountain of Vaucluſe; where Petrarch ſang the praiſe of his charming Laura. Poets miſtreſſes have a great advantage and agrément, if they love admiration (and we have frequently ſeen they are not in this, or any reſpect, ſuperior to other women) for not only the preſent, but that of future ages, is theirs. I cannot give you diſtinction by my pen, accept the higheſt of the heart, from,

Madam,

Avignon.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

P. S.

P. S. On the ſide of a rock, where I went to take a view of the Rhone, and invirons, is a hermit's cave: You have aſked a deſcription of their life; all the difference I know between them and monks, is a greater ſolitude; to which the habitation of this (the only one I have ſeen) adds the circumſtance of being more adapted to a mole than a man. By ſome ſelf-denials others may be benefited; but light, and all the immediate bleſſings of nature, being as unbounded as the goodneſs of their great author, no one can be a gainer by the privation of another; conſequently, to enjoy is to obey.

LETTER XXVIII.

BETWEEN Avignon and Niſmes I ſaw a moſt extraordinary piece of architecture, Pont du gard. It is an ancient work of the Romans, more curious than beautiful. I can only tell you, there are three bridges, one upon another; I have a print gives a better idea, which, you will ſay, is very poſſible. Niſmes has ſome fine antiquities; an amphitheatre, ſuppoſed to be built about the time of Trajan: it is eſteemed in higher preſervation than any now remaining. I cannot poſſibly give ſuch a deſcription of this edifice as it merits; I never beheld any ſo prodigiouſly vaſt: from thence is derived the magnificence which attends this edifice,

fice, for it is of the Tuſcan order. Here are ſeats for twenty thouſand people. The Goths have made their utmoſt efforts to deſtroy this noble monument of antiquity. Charlemagne gave the laſt great ſhock; but there are yet remains which teſtify the Romans built as they wrote, for eternity; it being impoſſible to look at this ſurpriſing work without an idea, had no enemy attacked but time, like Horace, this edifice might have defied his power. From the amphitheatre I went to ſee the maiſon quarrée, as it is vulgarly called; a building as diſtinguiſhable for elegance and beauty, as the other for vaſtneſs and ſtrength: It is a Roman temple, built by Auguſtus, to the memory of his grandſons, Lucius and Agrippa. The portico and pillars, which ſupport the architrave, are of the

Corin-

Corinthian order; the chapiters are reverſed, which one would think ſhould have an odd effect; but all here is beauty, elegance, and exquiſite proportion. This piece of antiquity yields to none, except the Pantheon at Rome. It is to be lamented they have not, as far as poſſible, preſerved the interior form of the temple, being made into a chapel for the Auguſtines has changed it much: However, one cannot look at the exterior without having the moſt elevated idea of the whole. I could not perſuade myſelf to quit this edifice, but by a reſolution to reviſit what has ſo highly charmed me. I have a paſſion for prints, becauſe they give a more perfect idea than words can, of the antiquities which engage my attention, and make you, in ſome degree, a companion of my travels. The fountain

of

of Niſmes is a moſt charming place: The foundations and aqueduct, are ~~modern~~, the work of the Romans, who may be traced wherever they have been maſters, by their great and uſeful undertakings. The plantations, and other decorations are modern. At this place is an ancient temple, ſaid to be dedicated to Diana; a point not eaſily aſcertained, nor do I ſee it is of any conſequence to the merit of the building, which, in my opinion, is not equal to the general eſtimation. The ruins are ſuch, antiquarians are obliged to imagine the beauties they deſcribe; theſe gentlemen certainly underſtand better than others the detail of the excellencies and particular circumſtances regarding the monuments of antiquity; but where there is nothing in an edifice which ſtrikes and ſpeaks for itſelf, as

great

great or beautiful, I cannot place it in a very high rank. A little diſtance from this temple is an ancient grand tower, built by the Gauls. I ſhall not enter into a diſpute concerning its uſe when erected: The building is amazingly ſtrong, but at preſent I cannot, either in point of utility or beauty, ſee it in any other light than that of forming an object in a landſcape, or terminating a view in a park, where the effect would be fine. When I have related to ſome French the faſhion in England, of building ruins as ornaments to rural ſcenes, I have ſcarce gained credit: It is true, they were perſons who had not been out of France; but an imitation of what is beautiful, where an original is impoſſible, is an attempt ſo natural, I am ſurpriſed any one had not faith on that head. I am afraid you are more

than ſatisfied with reading, though I ſhould yet have pleaſure in relating. Cicero obſerves, could one be taken up to view all the beauties of the heavens, the enjoyment would be imperfect, without ſome perſon to whom the ideas they raiſed might be communicated; in this, as in moſt other quotations, I depend upon my memory, and fear I do not give the exact ſenſe of the author: What is not Cicero's, pleaſe to accept as mine. I am ſenſible of the inequality of this recommendation in general, but am vain enough to hope it may ſucceed with you. I have received more amuſement from Niſmes, than any town ſince I left Paris. The antiquities have given me great ſatisfaction. Amidſt theſe pleaſures be perſuaded how ſincerely I regret your ſociety, and experience the truth of this

 maxim

maxim de Rochfoucault: Abſence deſtroys ſmall paſſions, but increaſes great. If it is not too flattering, permit me to hope you have the ſame ſentiments, and believe none can be more favourable than I will endeavour to merit, if there can be merit in following one's inclinations, which I do perfectly in being, with the moſt faithful attachment,

Madam,

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER XXIX.

THE city of Niſmes is ill built, the ſtreets very narrow, as in moſt old towns. The inhabitants are very numerous, thirty thouſand Proteſtants,

and the ſame number of Catholics. The people are much at their eaſe. From a compariſon of this place to Avignon, may be ſeen how much more advantageous the Reformed religion is to mankind, than the Roman Catholic: a ſtrong preſumption in favor of the former. That God wills the happineſs of his creatures, is the moſt certain truth of any that engages the pens of divines, ſays a celebrated French writer. In every point, but religion, and prieſtly government, which is an effect of the Roman Catholic, the county Venaiſſin has the advantage of the county about Niſmes, being more fertile, and the taxes very moderate. The Proteſtants not only enrich themſelves, by their induſtry and application to trade, but eaſe the Catholics, in ſome reſpects; as they ſupport their own poor, and

prevent

prevent convents and prieſts being ſo numerous, as in other towns of the ſame ſize: here is leſs ſuperſtition than in moſt places in this nation. The conſtant ſociety and connection between the people of each religion, makes the Catholics avoid many follies to be ſeen elſewhere, and renders the Proteſtants very attentive to recommend their religion by their lives. The biſhop is a man of great piety and candor, whoſe merit and holy life are acknowledged even by the adverſe party, whoſe prejudices riſe to a moſt extraordinary height, I muſt own, though they are my brethren. Judge by the following inſtance of their ſentiments in general. The people of the houſe where I lodged, aſſured me, the wild Beaſt in the Gevaudan was a jeſuit. I know one of the Proteſtant divines, who was edu-

cated at Geneva; he is a reaſonable, ſenſible man; and though they have endeavoured to give him the moſt rigid principles of Calviniſm, I found he had no objections to Epiſcopacy. I heard him preach; his language was good, and his ſubject adapted to the congregation; had the one been fine, and the other elevated, the rocks amidſt which he was placed, would have underſtood as well as the audience. The Proteſtants have but few miniſters; in general, they have no other qualification than courage and a good life; both are abſolutely requiſite. The people who are ſick and old, have divine ſervice in their houſes, locking the door, and ſetting a watch. In the Orleannois, I happened to be in the houſe with a lady when her grand-daughter was buried; the privacy and ſtillneſs gave

ſo much the appearance of a murder, I could not ſtay till the ceremony was finiſhed. At Niſmes they think their preſent ſtate very free; for though the ſame laws which formerly perſecuted them remain in force, they are ſeldom put in execution, except by the bigotry of ſome inferior magiſtrate, of which I have known an inſtance, with regard to two gentlemen; but they had immediate redreſs upon application to the court; this liberty and tranquillity the Proteſtants impute to the expulſion of the jeſuits; the ſuppoſed cauſe of that event, may render the King more favorable to them: Though his Majeſty does not give himſelf the trouble of examining every article of faith, no one can be better convinced of this point, that religion, or, at leaſt, the particular part of it which endangers his

life, muſt be bad. The Proteſtants have formerly roſe in defence of a liberty to which they thought they had a right; but never were concerned in a conſpiracy againſt the perſon of their Sovereign. I believe the King of France would almoſt change the nature of his power with the King of England, to enjoy the ſafety of the latter, who, I am perſuaded, might paſs alone thro' his capital, without any danger to his royal perſon. It is certain, every princely virtue that can attend a King, or private, which may ornament the character of man, are his, and command a guard as numerous as his ſubjects; yet all merit is ineffectual, where a miſtaken zeal is ſtronger than gratitude and reaſon. Languedoc is a fine province, the people much ſtronger than in many provinces; in the Orleannois,

Berry,

Berry, and ſome others, from living ill, and working hard in the vineyards, I have ſeen women of eighteen look like thoſe of fifty in England. France certainly is not ſo populous as the Britiſh nation; but an argument I have heard to prove they want men particularly, is by no means deciſive; this is, the women working in the fields; a circumſtance which proceeds from the vaſt ſtanding army, and the love of parade. The French employ men-ſervants in almoſt every office in the houſe, that they may occaſionally be turned into footmen; I once ſaw a lady with three behind her coach, who were all the ſervants ſhe had; when at home they were valet de chambre, cook, and laquais. This may appear, at firſt ſight, a trivial circumſtance, but is not ſo in its effects. Indeed, every point is conſequential,

ſequential, in which a change may contribute to the real well-being of any human creature; how much more ſo when it regards numbers, and in ſome reſpects, the nation in general. The men being taken from the ſervices abovementioned, from a labor where their ſtrength is required, the poor women are deſtroyed and rendered incapable of their domeſtic duties, by works they are not able to perform. I aſked a very ſenſible foreigner, who had viſited England, What pleaſed him moſt in that nation? he ſaid, the verdure of the fields, with the good looks and happy ſituation of the peaſants. This is intended, Madam, as an excuſe for the liberty I ſo often take of mentioning your inferiors. I am this moment returned from Orange, where I have been to ſee a triumphal arch, built

by

by Caius Marius, after his victory over the Cimbrians. I am told I ſhall ſee finer at Rome, to me this appears a moſt noble and ſurpriſing edifice; and being the firſt object of the kind, has had a ſtriking effect: others, though more excellent, cannot have, as they will be repetitions.——Company waits for me to ſet out for Aix; from thence I ſhall again have the pleaſure of writing. I am,

Madam,

Niſmes. Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER XXX.

SINCE I arrived at Aix, I have had a viſit from a perſon who is of a province very remote from this. I dined

at

at his houſe a few days after he had received letters of nobleſſe; his father was in the loweſt rank of life. You can conceive nothing ſo ridiculous as a Frenchman when he firſt finds himſelf a Gentleman. Monſ. de—— took particular pains, every moment, to call a poor farm-houſe his chateau, and a ſet of laboring ſervants, who waited on us without ſhoes or ſtockings, his gens. The lady's behaviour was correſpondent. They had an only ſon, about ten years of age, and ſeven in ſize; who, from too great an application to embroidery, and confectionary, looked as pale as aſhes, and thin as a ſkeleton. The poor boy had worked particularly hard that day; the father aſked, if he did not think the table well arranged, aſſuring us it was entirely his ſon's performance; and tho' ſo young, as we ſaw,

he

he had kept his own linen in repair ſeveral years. Monſ. de ——, who is really a fond parent, added at the ſame time he ſhould not, like many fathers, regard expence in his ſon's education; on the contrary, as ſoon as his requiſite domeſtic qualifications were perfected, he ſhould learn thoſe that were ſuperficial, and ornamental; as the languages, hiſtory, philoſophy, arms, &c. and then viſit all the courts in Europe, particularly the Britiſh; which this gentleman (if a man can ſo ſoon be made one) honors in a particular degree, as he imagines perſons of his birth are upon a better footing there than in France. Aix is a very handſome town; and being defended from the winds by the mountains, makes a very agreeable winter reſidence. Here is a parliament, and much good company. The Duke

de

de Villars has a very great houſe, when in this place: But no agrément can prevent me ſetting out for Marſeilles to-morrow. Provence is a fine country, and particularly pleaſing to an Engliſh eye, from the novelty of the ſcene; the mountainous aſpect, and the produce ſo different from ours, has infinite charms. The fruits are the fineſt in France, particularly the grapes, figs and oranges; the latter, ingrafted on pomegranates, are what Voltaire ſays muſt have been the forbidden fruit; none is in that ſtate here, the reverſe, with the vegetables, which are very fine; it makes a great part of the food of the country. The climate being hot, little meat is uſed, and yet the people are ſtrong; they are the handſomeſt in France. The water is exceeding good, which I imagine is one

of

of the points which renders the South particularly falutary; in many parts of this kingdom it is bad. Wine is very cheap, but being drank new (a general defect in France) it is ſo ſtrong and heavy, as to be very diſagreeable to a ſtranger; but the natives give it to their children with bread, as a ſoup. In proportion as nature is kind, art is neglected; if a ſevere winter happens, they are more diſtreſt than we in our bad climate; I mean bad only in point of gardening; for I think Charles the ſecond's obſervation is juſt, that climate is beſt which will permit people to be moſt days in the year, and hours in the day, in the open air; and this advantage has England. The great heats in ſummer, the terrible vent de biſe in the winter, render the air very diſagreeable in the ſouthern parts of

France,

France, and leave only the latter part of autumn, and beginning of winter, perfectly agreeable to a ſtranger. The natives here, as in other provinces, make very little uſe of their houſes when it is poſſible to live out of them. I paid a viſit to a lady in Languedoc, who, with her daughters, propos'd a walk, and led me into a foreſt, where ſome people were hunting the wild boar. We followed the hounds for ſome hours. The Languedocienne women are particularly lively and agile; in other provinces, where they are not ſo able to walk, they ſit in their gardens, upon the cours, in the ſtreets, roads, and every where, except their own apartments. In this point we ſhould do well to imitate them, with a reſerve to the roads and ſtreets, which I think an aukward, idle ſituation for a man,

and very unbecoming a woman. I once ſaw a lady full dreſt, ſurrounded with men talking and laughing, ſeated upon a bench in the road between Paris and Verſailles: I imagined ſhe was an opera girl, but found, on the contrary, her rank was as much above, as the others would have been beneath ridicule. To this manner of living in the open air, amongſt other cauſes, may be attributed the general chearfulneſs of this nation. It is certain an Engliſhman, with all his advantages, is ſometimes ready to hang himſelf, and pities a Frenchman, whoſe great ſpirits incline him to jump over his head. The French poſſeſs the art of making themſelves more generally happy than the Engliſh; but I ſhould imagine, when the latter is happy, his bliſs muſt be greater, as it ariſes from ſentiment and reflection, the

other's from conſtitution, and inattention; to the latter all the French cuſtoms contribute. I was much ſurpriſed viſiting a lady upon the death of her ſon, to find her in all the colours of the rainbow. I expreſſed my aſtoniſhment when I returned home, to a gentleman, who expreſſed as much on hearing the Engliſh faſhion, ſaying, Parents ſhould never mourn for their children; for it was great impropriety to wear that habit for an inferior. This idea of ſuperiority, which is juſt in ſome reſpects, is too ſtrongly aſſerted in France, by parents in general; I am perſuaded their influence would be more laſting if it was acquired by a conſtant and early attention to the happineſs of their children: As it is, the influence ceaſes with the neceſſity of compliance. A great French author obſerves, gratitude

tude is the principal law of the Engliſh; for what goes under the denomination of law, is not ſtrong enough to bind the people to their King, children to their parents, wives to their huſbands, &c. Sure this is the greateſt praiſe that ever was given to people, and, as it comes from a ſtranger, we may hope it is, in ſome degree, juſt. Indeed I think, in moſt of thoſe points (perhaps all, if rightly underſtood) the Britiſh perform their duties, at leaſt, as well as the French, notwithſtanding the ſeverity of their laws are ſuch; if they alone could bring virtue, and general order, this nation would ſee them flouriſh in the higheſt perfection. Added to the laws which regard the public, parents can confine worthleſs children, huſbands wives, who merit that treatment, &c. The ladies, indeed, have taken

care to ſoften the laws, with reſpect to them, et elles ont pris bien le change; for at preſent there are more men who require the protection of their wives, than women who claim it from that connection. The married of your ſex, Madam, are ſovereigns in France, and moſt abſolute: The huſbands are treated like the parliament; the privilege, or at leaſt the effect, of remonſtrating is loſt. If you will permit me to ſpeak with freedom my ſentiments on this head, the ladies, in general, ſucceed ſo ill in their government, both public and private, I am perſuaded every ſenſible Engliſh woman, who has that diſpoſition, would loſe it upon a knowledge of their ſucceſs. I think the Engliſhmen have more reſpect and tenderneſs for the ſex, generally ſpeaking, than the French; but they do not

obey

obey their wives, nor attend their miſtreſſes ſo well: As to the latter, they may be excuſed from their attendance on public buſineſs, which does not belong to men in France; as to the former, I have nothing to ſay for my countrymen; therefore ſhall leave them to plead their own cauſe, and content myſelf with aſſuring, I am, with the greateſt attention, now and ever, Madam,

Your moſt obedient, and

Aix. Moſt humble, &c.

LETTER XXXI.

NOTHING can be more pleaſing than the approach to Marſeilles: The town, the ſea, the mountains, and

rocks, with the Baſtidas d'alentour, form a ſcene equally beautiful and variegated. The new part of this city is handſome, particularly the cours, and ſtreet which leads to the Porte de Rome. The prodigious trade, and being a ſea port, brings a great concourſe of ſtrangers. I have ſeen ſome ſingular habits; the moſt ſo was the wife of an Indian merchant; her veil reached almoſt to her feet, and her hair, which was braided with pearls and other ornaments, hung down her back to an amazing length. Through her veil, which was perfectly tranſparent, might be diſtinguiſhed fine and regular features; her eyes ſhone like diamonds ſet in yellow marble. Marſeilles is the only town, on this ſide Paris, where ſuch figures could paſs peaceably. The French make great complaints againſt

the Engliſh mob; their's, though not ſo ſpirited to aſſert the public liberty, is quite as much ſo to aſſert the particular liberty of being inſolent to ſtrangers. A gentleman examining the bridge at Orleans, with great tranquillity, a mob came up and began to be very impertinent to him, meerly as a foreigner: he being an adroit ſcholar of Broughton's, laid ſeveral of them upon the ground in a moment; the reſt fled, with the greateſt precipitation, thinking his power more than human. The gentleman who gave this relation was much pleaſed with the novelty of this ſurprizing manner of fighting, as it appeared to him, and admired the perſon who ſo well executed this art, though againſt his countrymen; whom juſtice and politeneſs made him acknowledge were very culpable. Two ladies

of my acquaintance travelling in Engliſh dreſſes, into the South, were, when deſcending from the chaiſe, ſurrounded with a croud of people, who, examining their appearance very ſtrictly, exclaimed qu'eſt-ce que c'eſt que cela? qu'ſt-ce qui c'eſt que cela? till one, who gave the tone to the whole groupe, ſaid, Ah ce ſont des maures? From this deciſion none appealed, though the ladies were neither of them brown; and one amongſt the faireſt of my countrywomen.——I went to the play two or three nights ſince; it was le Depit amoreux. I intereſted myſelf greatly in the quarrel of the two lovers, the only part of the piece which has any merit; but that I think extremely well expreſſed: it concludes like the charming ode of Horace to Lydia, in a reconciliation equally pleaſing and natural. I

have

have heard many people obſerve, marriages contracted where there is only a common good liking, are happier than thoſe founded upon ſtrong paſſions; they may appear in this light to a third perſon, who can judge but from the exterior, where a greater and more conſtant tranquillity may reign: but thoſe who love to a certain degree, know there are pleaſures attending even a quarrel, ſuperior to any caſe experienced by people who live together in that inſipid ſituation; which muſt be the conſequence of forming ſuch a connection with only a common good liking. I am perſuaded the tranquillity and politeneſs which may be ſeen in France, between married people, proceeds more frequently from indifference than unity of ſentiment.—As there was no play laſt night, I went to a petit ſouper, com-

compoſed of a dozen perſons, clergy, ladies, and officers; the former are always at enmity with the latter, at leaſt, in appearance; accordingly they rallied the prieſts with reſpect to the ladies, ſaying, they had much better marry, as do the clergy in England, than attend the ladies as gallants: To which one of them replied; Un pretre peut avoir une foibleſſe comme un autre homme, mais ſe marier, fy donc; fy donc. A lady addreſſing me, with great ſurpriſe and ſpirit, ſaid, Et vos eveques ſe marient! Sancta Maria que je voudrois bien voir la femme d'un eveque, quelle drole de creature! Many other things were ſaid, which equally ſhew the prejudices of education, if people have not reaſon and ſenſe to riſe above them, and the danger of taking cuſtom as a deciſive judge of right and wrong. The

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ſentiment of the prieſt and lady, are far from being general to all Roman Catholics; there are many, and thoſe of ſuch ſuperior underſtanding, they ought to balance ten times their number; who think the celibacy of the clergy as deſtructive of private as of public good. A prôpôs to the clergy are you acquainted with Boileau's Lutrin? I thought it a good ſatyr when I was in England; but now being perfectly verſed in the characters, manners, and offices of the ſet of people repreſented, it appears moſt admirable, that ſtroke of the enraged prieſt purſuing his adverſaries to bleſs them, from a ſpirit of vengeance, and they at the ſame time hiding themſelves to eſcape the bleſſing, as the higheſt inſult, is moſt exquiſite. The two concluding lines of this chapter are very good:

Et

Et de leur vain projet les chanoines punis
S'en retournent chez eux eperdus et benis.

The clergy are ſo large a body, there muſt be many worthleſs perſons in their habit; but to all with whom I am acquainted, I can impute no other fault; except, that they demonſtrate by their lives, as well as ſermons, a firm belief of the doctrine of ſupererogation; they being attended with a degree of rigor and penitence, unneceſſary for their own virtuous actions; therefore I conclude they are intended for the vices of others. Company breaks in, and obliges me to conclude rather ſooner than I intended; though I fear, not before you are tired of my letter. I am,

Madam,

Marſeilles.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

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LETTER XXXII.

THE Governor's and Commandant houſes are almoſt the only reſort for perſons of faſhion. The town being principally compoſed of merchants and officers of the finances, who always make a conſiderable part of every city; I mean conſiderable, with regard to numbers: Where the nobleſſe are rich enough to deſpiſe and refuſe their ſociety, they do; but company muſt be had, and people who will play: For this reaſon the financiers are upon a good footing in ſmall towns; for they never want money, however ſcarce it may be in the nation. Some years ſince I have heard the parliaments propoſed, if they might raiſe the taxes of the provinces

where they preſided, to triple the ſum now paid into the King's treaſury, and at the ſame time eaſe the people conſiderably. The reaſons for rejecting this propoſition are very apparent; it would have thrown much power into the hands of the parliament, which is ever avoided; though, upon all occaſions, they have demonſtrated the ſtrongeſt and moſt faithful attachment to their ſovereign, which is very conſiſtent, with their regard to the public good. It would likewiſe have deprived the court of many creatures, and rendered the anticipation of the public revenues leſs eaſy.——A gentleman, who paid me a viſit the other day, ſpeaking of a perſon who was come to bathe in the ſea, related the following event: Being at Dunkirk, as he was walking out of the town, he ſaw, at a diſtance,

a vaſt

a vaſt number of people all on foot. Amidſt the croud he could diſtinguiſh ſome perſons of ſuperior rank: When they drew near, he aſked the occaſion of this proceſſion, and was informed the young man of quality who walked firſt, had been bit by a mad dog; the conſequences of which were ſo violent they could not get him into a carriage, though it was a conſiderable journey he had made to bathe in the ſea. Amidſt the diſtortions and ravings of his diſtemper, might be diſcerned a moſt beautiful face, and fine figure. He was dreſſed in black, with eighteen footmen in the ſame habit; ſome of them held him with cords, faſtened in ſuch a manner he had liberty to walk, yet not to hurt himſelf; the others followed weeping, with an old governor, almoſt as mad as his pupil. But the ſituation of the father

ther and mother, who made up this unhappy ſuite, was beyond all deſcription. They attempted to go with their ſon to the ſhip, but the lady, from violent agitations of hope and fear, fainted, and was carried away as dead. The father perſiſted in ſeeing the operation performed ſeveral times, for ſeveral days, but without ſucceſs. They were at length reduced to the cruel neceſſity (from the torments the young man ſuffered) to call a conſultation for the moſt eaſy manner of putting him to death: Bleeding was choſe, and accordingly executed. I do not believe you will thank me for this melancholy relation; but whatever ſtrikes one, though painfully, it is natural to relate. I know not from what cauſe, but imagine it is the climate; I never heard of a perſon who recovered after this misfor-

misfortune in France. The affair above-mentioned muſt have been terrible to the moſt indifferent parents; unhappily, theſe were diſtinguiſhed for affection to their unfortunate ſon.——As I do not love play, I ſpend many evenings at the theatre; amongſt other pieces, I have ſeen Les Plaideurs; the humor is very ſtrong, but does not appear outrée to thoſe who have lived long enough in this nation, to enter into the ſpirit of the ridicule. The Normans are renowned for their love of chicanery; but I think the ſame diſpoſition prevails all over France, at leaſt, wherever I have reſided. Many families are ruined by this litigious ſpirit, and yet law is very cheap to what it is in England. I know a town where a gentleman, his wife, and all the women of the place, were engaged

in a law ſuit; ſeveral counſel were employed, and yet it did not coſt above five guineas. The affair ended, as you may imagine, in favor of the wife, and other women, who raiſed ſuch a party, the huſband could not walk in the ſtreets without arms. Before the judges, in ſmall towns, and in trivial cauſes, people may plead for themſelves; the women, who are very attentive, on all occaſions, to preſerve their privileges, aſſert this. Some of them diſplayed their eloquence in a town where I was upon a viſit; I had not the amuſement of hearing them; yet I am ſatisfied they ſucceeded as well as the attornies, who are ſometimes the pleaders in theſe courts. A ſet of people, as ignorant in general, as diſhoneſt. A common ſoldier, and many things leſs honorable, aſſume this profeſſion. The French

are

are obliged to apply to them in many of the ſame affairs, which, in England, are decided by a juſtice of peace. This is a very great hardſhip, particularly upon the poor, whom they terribly oppreſs. It is likewiſe a reaſon why there are ſo many law ſuits in this kingdom. The poſt is juſt going out, and will only permit me to ſay, I am,

Madam,

Marſeilles.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER XXXIII.

I HAVE made an excurſion, ſome leagues from this place, to be preſent at the wedding of a gentleman with whom I have formed an acquaintance during

my reſidence in this place; the entertainment was very elegant, and we had a bal maſqué after ſupper: this is an amuſement for which I thought their genius had been by no means calculated; this being in a private houſe, was very well regulated; but I was once preſent at a public bal maſqué, where the wit was folly, and the humor indecency: the great liberty of ſpeech which is permitted without a maſqué, makes them know no bounds when they have that protection. What I ſaw was in a provincial town; I am told, the Pariſian aſſemblies, of this kind, are much better, more brilliant, finer dreſſes, I conclude, but I ſhould imagine the genius of the people is pretty much the ſame every where. As to the ceremony of marriage, the only particular I have obſerved is the brides, (if they

have never been married before) wear a little crown of ſilver, or gold; but I believe this is peculiar ſo ſome provinces. Oh, I forget, there is likewiſe another ſingularity; ſometimes the bridegroom has two or three boys kneeling on his ſide of the altar, and the bride as many girls on hers. I ſuppoſe you know, wherever the canon law prevails, the children of two ſingle people may, at any time, be legitimated by the marriage of their parents; it is difficult to ſay whether this cuſtom is deſirable or not. It is very right a man ſhould, if he chuſes, legitimate his own children; but by that act he may very often legitimate other peoples. A gentleman, in a province where I reſided, had married in this ſtyle; after his death, the mother took a diſlike to one of her daughters, and, to

prevent her ſharing in fortune with the other younger children, declared ſhe was not the gentleman's who had legitimated her, and propoſed to begin a law ſuit to prove this ſhameful aſſertion. I know not whether ſhe proceeded, but heard ſeveral perſons of knowledge in the law ſay, ſhe would only expoſe herſelf if ſhe did; for the ſtate of a child was too important a point to depend upon the caprice of a mother, particularly one who, whether ſhe ſaid truth or falſhood in this particular, muſt be without truth or honor, in general. You ſee I am diſtreſt for ſubjects in this place, or I ſhould not give what I do inſtead of news. I have been ſpeaking of a ſingularity in one of the church ceremonies; give me leave to tell you another: This is the ordaining an order of exorciſts, with

the other orders of the prieſthood. It is certain the common people in France are, as to their ideas of devils, witches, &c. in pretty much the ſame ſtate they were in England, ſome hundred years ſince; it cannot be otherwiſe, for though many of the clergy are too wiſe to exerciſe this power, they cannot own they do not believe it; and ſome, whoſe heads are not ſo good as their hearts, believe de bon cœur, and act in conſequence. I am acquainted with one who ſpoke to the Devil in a cloud, to keep the ſtorm from the vineyards: but the greateſt effect I ever knew an exorciſm have, was with regard to a Scotch officer of my acquaintance, who lay deſperately ill of a wound he had received by the ſpringing a mine at a ſiege in Germany: he had a Highland ſervant, juſt come from Scotland, who,

from his great attachment to his maſter, never went to bed; when he could no longer watch, he wrapped himſelf up in his plaid, and ſlept in the corner of the room, which was very large. The people of the houſe recollecting the gentleman was a Catholic, ſent a prieſt to him one morning, about two or three o'clock; he entered the apartment, which had only a wax taper, and a few embers in the chimney,

Which taught light to counterfeit a gloom.

In this ſituation he proceeded to the bedſide, without ſeeing the Highlander, and began his exhortation to the gentleman, who being too ill to give much attention, the prieſt raiſed his voice ſo high as to awaken the Highlander, who immediately ſtarting up, between ſleeping and waking, ſeeing ſomething in black,

con-

concluded it was the Devil, drew his ſword, and marched up to the prieſt, who had not more favorable ſentiments of him, having a countenance full of fury, and his hair ſtanding upright with fear; the Prieſt betook himſelf to the only arms he could uſe, waved his hand in the ſign of a croſs, between him and his adverſary, repeating the terms of exorciſm, in nomine pater, &c. but truſting ſtill more to a retreat, made the beſt of his way to the door; the Highlander ſeeing his enemy fly, purſued to the top of the ſtairs, brandiſhing his ſword; where the prieſt, from fear (and having all the way walked backwards, the better to perform his office, and keep his adverſary in view) fell at once from the top to the bottom, with great noiſe, but little hurt: the gentleman, whom

all

all this buſtle and confuſion rouz'd from his ſtupid and lethargic ſituation, fell into the moſt violent fit of laughter, which was ſucceeded by an evacuation of vaſt quantities of congealed blood, and recovered in a few days; though the night before this event the phyſicians had given him over. The poſt is juſt going out, and gives me the opportunity of ſaying, I am,

Madam,

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER XXXIV.

I PASSED the laſt evening very agreeably at a ſupper. The French certainly do the honors of their houſe very

very well, and have, whenever their fortunes will permit, hoſpitable and elegant tables: But a circumſtance one ſometimes ſees is very offenſive to me, and I believe to all Engliſh; this is the free manner of their ſervants. A valet de chambre, upon ſeveral occaſions, gave his opinions; they were received, as well as uttered, in ſuch a manner, I am perſuaded he was always accuſtomed to this liberty, except in a repas of ceremony. I have, in other provincial towns, ſeen the ſame behaviour at the tables of perſons of quality. You think me very vain and ſingular, to dare accuſe the French nation of a defect in politeneſs: but I ſpeak my own ſentiments when I addreſs you, not thoſe of others; and the former lead me to ſay, in many points, the French are inferior to the Engliſh, except the court and

per-

perſons who frequent it; there politeneſs is in the higheſt perfection. I experienced more of that quality the day I was at Verſailles, than I imagined ſtrangers could find in any place without particular recommendation; and I had none but what I have in common with every perſon who is his Britannic Majeſty's ſubject, and a gentleman. As they were rallying me, laſt night, at the theatre, a gentleman told us of the paſſion his wife formerly had for that amuſement (mine, you know, is only in preference to play:) he married the lady from the convent, where ſhe had been ever ſince the age of ſeven years: chance had went beyond the intentions of the parents, having given the huſband and wife perſons and characters perfectly pleaſing to each other; though in the latter there

was ſomething of a contraſt, in ſome reſpects. The lady placed a great degree of happineſs in the hopes of living at the theatre: She declared, as ſoon as ſhe arrived at the gentleman's houſe, ſhe ſhould go to the play that night, and every one of her life, at the ſame time deſired her huſband's attendance; which is not abſolutely ridiculous in provincial towns, though not perfectly polite. Her humor continuing for ſeveral months, the gentleman was rally'd by all his acquaintance, as added to the unfaſhionableneſs of attending a wife; he was known to be of a grave and ſtudious diſpoſition; entirely unaffected by the raillery, he anſwered, I know the ſex will be attended; as long as my wife gives me the preference, I will not reſign my poſt to another. I ſpend a few hours at an amuſe-

amuſement, which has no charms for me, in hopes of paſſing my life agreeably with a perſon who has ſo many. The gentleman's patience was rewarded; after about ſix months offering to attend his wife, as uſual, ſhe proteſted ſhe ſhould never deſire to ſee another play as long as ſhe lived, and went immediately into the country; where her temper was formed to his and true happineſs. You will be very glad to hear I intend to quit Marſeilles tomorrow, as I am diſtreſt for ſubjects to entertain; the place having few objects which merit attention, I am obliged to go back, or give French converſations; and few of them give pleaſure in the repetition, as I am perſuaded you find. They are very fond of wit; but, to do juſtice, they are eaſily contented on that head. I will conclude, after deſiring

ſiring abſolution for all paſt defects: I ſhould be happy if you would imitate thoſe prieſts who are ſo provident as to give it for the future. I am particularly ſenſible my language is very imperfect. An attention to the French has confuſed my Engliſh. This is not affectation; for I had rather you would imagine I know no other language than think I give any a preference; as Engliſh has merit ſuperior to all modern of my acquaintance; and, what is more eſſential, it is the language of my country: but living much with the French, and having conſtant correſpondence by letter, it is ſcarce poſſible not to learn ſome of their idioms. It appears difficult to me to poſſeſs ſeveral living languages at the ſame time, in the leaſt degree of perfection, or perhaps it may be only the two in queſtion.

Even

Even Voltaire complained, his reſidence in England affected his French. Shakeſpeare is well imitated in ſome of his tragedies; but, by the tranſlation of the ſpeech in Hamlet, he did not always underſtand that author. I quit this nation with ſome regret, from an idea I may not have the happineſs of returning the civilities, or continuing the friendſhip (except by letter) which I have formed with ſeveral perſons of merit; in all other reſpects am infinitely pleaſed to purſue my journey. I ſet out for Leghorn to-morrow; wherever I reſt, will take the firſt opportunity of ſaying, I am,

Madam,

Marſeilles.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXXV.

FROM Marſeilles to Leghorn I had the fineſt paſſage imaginable; the ſailors wiſhed for more wind, but I was infinitely pleaſed with this new and noble ſcene, and did not deſire a change. The dolphins came and played about the ſhip in great numbers, at a little diſtance the prodigious ſpouting fiſh, throwing up vaſt quantities of water, with other marine wonders, preſented to my mind the great and ſublime deſcription which Homer gives of Neptune and his attendants. The continuance of this fine weather, gave me an opportunity of obſerving the ſetting ſun, which has beautiful effects upon this element; and I was attentive not

to omit ſeeing a greater and more ſtriking beauty the next morning, the daybreak, and the riſing of the ſame glorious luminary. Immediately after my debarkation at Leghorn, I ſet out for Florence, which I ſhall quit tomorrow, as I propoſe to make a reſidence when I return. In this city ſeeing many great and curious objects, in a ſhort ſpace of time, the imagination is highly ſtruck, and ideas raiſed ſo faſt, it is impoſſible to give a juſt deſcription; for this reaſon, and as the famous gallery has been often and minutely deſcribed, I ſhall only ſpeak of an object whoſe charms render ſilence impoſſible: this is the ſo much, and deſervedly celebrated Venus de Medicis. Whether one conſiders the exact proportion, beauty, delicacy, or what is more amazing, the engaging modeſty

deſty of this figure, which ſeems to wiſh to hide itſelf from the admiration it raiſes; the great powers and ſuperiority of the ancients, are equally atteſted.——Italy is a fine country; but I am ſo partial to my own, I am not ſurpriſed at the Cameron, who being aſked, as he travelled through Parma and Placentia, What he would do if maſter of that dutchy? replied, Sell it, and buy an eſtate in Lochabar; which, I have heard, is one of the moſt barren parts of the Highlands. I am threatened with the inconveniencies attending travellers in Italy, but they are not worth repeating; one circumſtance in the Police, which was mentioned in company the other night, which is very ſingular: If a murder is committed upon the road, the houſe is razed to the ground. If there is ſuch an ordinance

(which I very much doubt) I think it very good; as from thence perſons may be attentive to the character of thoſe who hire their houſes. What makes me particularly remark this circumſtance, is a letter I received when at Marſeilles; by which I find, two men and their wives, who kept an inn at Briare, were committed to priſon; the men to be broke upon the wheel, the women hanged. One of the men was immediately concerned in an aſſaſſination at Paris; they were both public pickpockets at Paris, and took this inn, which I believe is forty or fifty leagues diſtant, for a retreat. I was there two days with ſome company, one of our chaiſe breaking; the women ſaid their huſbands were at the capital upon buſineſs: one was more melancholy than I ever ſaw a French-

woman;

woman; and, by the account ſhe gave of herſelf, will probably rather be hanged for her folly, in marrying a man ſhe did not know, than any real guilt. The laws in France are extremely rigid, even to the moſt diſtant accomplices. If theſe women only knew of their huſbands thefts, ſure they are not culpable for not declaring them; at leaſt, they might merit pity, if of the murderer I have no compaſſion. I think it is a defect in France, that the puniſhment is almoſt equal; it certainly renders murders more common.—The expedition with which I make my journey, will not permit me to write again till it is finiſhed; but believe me ever

Florence. Your moſt obedient ſervant.

LETTER XXXVI.

IT is ſome days ſince I arrived at Rome, once the capital of the world, of which at preſent may be ſeen the moſt magnificent remains. I will ſpeak of objects as they are eſteemed moſt curious, or as they have appeared moſt ſtriking to me; both thoſe points unite with regard to the Pantheon; but I have not words ſufficiently expreſſive for the noble architecture of this great monument given us by antiquity. The entrance is by a moſt magnificent portico, ſupported by pillars of oriental granite, of an amazing height and ſize. When, with difficulty and regret this work is quitted, to view the interior of the

the rotunda, the mind is immediately filled with theſe ideas, which every ſacred building ought to raiſe; but, in that point, none ever ſucceeded ſo perfectly as this. Such a ſurpriſing grand effect muſt ariſe from the ſublimity of the deſign alone; the dimenſions of this building being inconſiderable, compared with many others. For what is to be ſaid of the advantages of the figure, and the manner of this temple's receiving light, I refer you to Mr. Addiſon's judicious obſervations, in his Spectators, on the ſublime, which I immediately recollected, though it is many years ſince I read them. Do not imagine this reference is to ſave myſelf the trouble, you know it is otherwiſe; but I can only repeat his words, or ſay ſomething leſs juſt: "The ornaments "of this building are, ſome of them,

" fine; yet being mixed with many " which have no merit, except that de- " rived from Roman Catholic ſuper- " ſtition, the latter disfigure as much " as the former embelliſh." I was extremely ſurpriſed, ſeeing a Virgin Mary by St. Luke, to find it ſo very indifferent a performance; for I did imagine they would have given him ſome piece, which might have made us regret ſuch an author; as it is, though I highly honor him as an evangeliſt, I am perfectly contented with a miſerable ſinner for a painter. The Pantheon has loſt moſt of its ancient ornaments. They truly deſerved that name; many fine ſtatues have been taken away, and the bronze, with which the roof was covered, now makes the magnificence of the grand altar of St. Peter's: That the ſpoils of the

Heathen

Heathen ſhould adorn the temples of the true God, is very juſt; but as this fine edifice has been conſecrated as a church, I am highly diſpleaſed it has been robbed to embelliſh any other, (much more that it has been injured for private uſes) as none can ever equal it; at preſent the whole glory of the ſtructure muſt be given to the architect.—I ſhall next obſerve the church of St. Peter: The court is the moſt noble I ever beheld, a vaſt collonnade conducts under cover to the church; the pillars ſupport an architrave, ornamented with numerous ſtatues of ſaints and martyrs: In the midſt of the court is a beautiful obeliſk, and on each ſide a fine fountain. The outward appearance of St. Peter's is, by no means, adequate to this magnificent approach, being much inferior to St. Paul's in beauty, tho'

greatly

greatly ſuperior in ſize. The grand facciata is in a ſtyle which would be very handſome for a palace, but deſtroys the uniformity of the building as a church, and in that reſpect gives a great advantage to the Engliſh temple. The interior of this building is very magnificent, but did not ſtrike me as I expected: it is agreed by all who ſee this edifice, the more frequently it is viewed, and the greater the exactneſs with which it is examined, ſo much higher is the admiration it raiſes: This I think an argument that the building receives more from the ornaments than from architecture; the effect of beauty in the latter is immediate; the former, where they are very numerous, muſt be conſidered before their merit is known. I believe many perſons confound the different effects together; as

I do

I do not, though the excellency of the ornaments is great, I think there are too many, and too great a variety: a noble ſimplicity, or unity of ornaments, appears requiſite in a ſacred building. The number of chapels which call the view from its principal point, are to me a defect; though each of them has beauties might alone make the merit of an inferior edifice. The grand altar of Bronze, ſupported by pillars of the ſame metal, of a greater height and ſize than can be imagined (till the dimenſions are taken) is a chef d'œuvre in all reſpects; as is the chair of St. Peter, at the upper end of the church, ſupported by the colloſſial figures of the four great doctors; a glory riſes to the roof of the building, the whole of gilt bronze. Beneath the chair is an altar, on each ſide of it is a monu-

a monument of bronze and marble; the two ſtatues which adorn the tomb of Urban the eighth, are of great beauty. To ſpeak of all that deſerves attentention in this edifice, would be impoſſible in the compaſs of a letter; therefore, with regard to the vaſt dimenſions, and a detail of the embelliſhments, I muſt refer you to the books wrote for that purpoſe. The invention of Moſaic is of infinite merit, as it will prevent the great number of fine pictures, in this church, having the ſame fate others have ſuffered by the humidity of the air in the buildings where they are placed. It is an odd exertion of power, and whimſical exerciſe of his office, the Pope performs in baptizing or conſecrating Heathen images: As for inſtance; the Jupiter from the Pantheon, which is now converted into St. Peter,

placed

placed in this church, and ſo highly reverenced, his feet are almoſt wore with the pious kiſſes they receive; of many I was a witneſs. The ſame happy change has attended the figure now called St. Sebaſtian, in the church of St. Agnes. If the Pope has this power, his charity ſhould have extended to all the Heathens in the Rotunda, and have left them there. It is true, as every perſon's Ideas have not a Catholic obedience, nor the Pope's power is ſo expreſſive as the ancient ſtatuaries, their works might have affected the mind according to the intentions of the artiſts; which would have rendered ſome of them, perhaps, improper for a church, in our opinions, who go to viſit theſe ſacred buildings; but thoſe who go there to worſhip, might, by Pontificial faith, as well ſee a Magda-

len

len in Venus, as St. Peter in Jupiter. I met with one object diſpleaſed me more than the above-mentioned great convert; this is a gilt lamb, that makes a moſt conſpicuous figure in a little chapel, on the left as you go up the church. The ear may hear figures of ſpeech; the repreſentation of which, is too groſs for the eye to ſupport. Indeed, there is ſuch an impropriety, as well as ſo much folly, in the ornamental part of Roman Catholic churches in general, I prefer the plain ſtate of ours, and would rather give up thoſe paintings and ſtatues, which are juſt decorations, than ſuffer the mixture. I have heard a perſon, who was undetermined (at leaſt in appearance) with regard to religion, was adviſed, by the Proteſtant party, to take a journey to Rome, as a certain means of fixing him in

in their principles, to the great ſurpriſe of his counſellors, he returned a profeſt Catholic, declaring that religion muſt be particularly ſupported by God, which could ſtand where man did ſo much, in all reſpects, to deſtroy it. This is a French ſtory, in which I can make no other obſervation, than the perſon's party being taken before the journey, or he never could have made this deciſion; the contrary would, in my opinion, have been a more natural effect; and I fancy in this judgment I am not ſingular. I am,

Madam,

Rome.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LET-

LETTER XXXVII.

TO diverſify the ſubject of my letters, I ſhall take leave of the buildings, till I have ſpoke of ſome living objects, from whom I have received much amuſement and inſtruction; whoſe merit is acknowledged by all who have the pleaſure of their acquaintance; indeed, fame and their works have carried their names where their perſons never appeared: Theſe are father Laſure and Jacquier, monks of the order of Mimims della Trinita dé Monti, profeſſors of mathematics to the Pope; how great their merit muſt be in that ſcience, being French, and having this preferment at Rome, is ſufficient demonſtration: I can add, from

my own knowledge, their geniuſes are not confined to one ſtudy, and what is more extraordinary, they poſſeſs all the ſçavoir-vivre of their country, in the beſt and moſt unlimited acceptation, ever entertaining, with unaffected modeſty and humility, qualities as ſeldom to be found in their profeſſion as great and uſeful learning, and quite as requiſite for the ſociety into which their talents have given them a diſtinguiſhed introduction, and where they return the honor; for I think a perſon of ſuperior genius, who condeſcends to aſſociate with his inferiors, in this reſpect, confers as great a favor as when the condeſcenſion is in point of rank. It is certain, no ſuperiority is leſs pardoned, than that ſometimes aſſumed by perſons of diſtinguiſhed underſtandings, and pride never ſo eaſily ſup-

ported as when ariſing from high birth; this appears to me very unreaſonable, and unjuſt, as the former, though not entirely, is yet more a man's own merit than the latter. I ſuppoſe the reaſons for this manner of acting are: every one is a judge of great rank, and few of ſuperior underſtanding; and the advantages which may be derived from a connection with the former, are more deſired than any the latter can give. Pardon this digreſſion, into which I have been led by the merit of theſe fathers; but I do not intend it as an apology for them, as I never ſaw the moſt common capacity attended with more eaſe and ſimplicity. Theſe excellent perſons are united by friendſhip, ſimpathy of taſte, and merit, in which I believe them equal, though it is only father Leſure I ſee frequently. From

church-

churchmen to churches is a very natural tranſition; therefore I now paſs to St. John de Lateran, which pleaſes me as to the body of the building (I mean to ſay the Nef) as well as St. Peter's. The ſtatues of the apoſtles are a very great and juſt ornament; that of St. Matthew is abſolutely ſpeaking. After this church, is generally ranked Santa Maria Maggiore; if it was to be admired as a fine gallery where a moſt beautiful altar is erected, magnificent chapels, and innumerable exquiſite decorations, I ſhould grant the admiration is juſt; but, as a temple, it muſt be placed in an inferior claſs, and Santa Maria degli Angioli have the preference; this is the Carthuſians church. The figure is a Grecian croſs, which I think more eligible than any, except the Rotunda, for a ſacred edifice. It

fills the eye better than the common form of churches; this is not vaſt, yet it ſtrikes as ſuch; and St. Agnes, in Piazza Navonna, though extremely ſmall, from the advantages of the ſame figure, does not appear ſo, at leaſt not diſagreeably little, as Santa Maria della Vittoria, and churches in general of that ſize, when built in the ordinary form. In the temple of which I am ſpeaking at preſent, are the monuments of thoſe eminent painters, Carlo Maratti, and Salvator Roſa; the firſt was deſigned by himſelf, and his brother formed the buſt; the only honor, I think, one could refuſe, to the memory of ſo near a relation. Here is a baptiſm of our Saviour, and many pieces of merit; but I cannot ſay they are in general paintings, that either ſtrike or pleaſe me. St. Peter and Simon Magus

gus is eſteemed, by ſome perſons, a very good picture; it is by Battoni; of him I will ſpeak, with other modern and portrait painters. The grand church of the jeſuits is extremely fine, the ornaments very rich; the rails of one altar are embelliſhed with a conſiderable quantity of Lapis Lazuli. I ſaw two of theſe edifices belonging to the jeſuits the ſame day, both ſo equally magnificent, I confound their titles; but they are of no conſequence, nor would it give you any pleaſure to hear, in a city where a great number of people want bread, St. Ignatius has more jewels than moſt princes in Europe; a curious idea that, of ſome monks going half naked, and perfectly naſty when alive; and the figures of others when dead, more extravagantly ornamented than any fops at a ball. I

mentioned the form of St. Agnes's church, in Piazza Navonna; the architecture, by Borromini, is very beautiful, and the decorations are good. Many ſacred edifices in this city, which, in ſome places, would command attention, and long journies be made to viſit them, remain unnoticed from the great number of their ſuperiors; that will be their fate with me; for I do not intend to reſume the ſubject farther than I may be induced by viewing ſome particular pictures in theſe buildings. Be perſuaded, Madam, whatever pleaſure I receive from the beauties of antiquity, or converſation of moderns, they are, in no degree equal to the happineſs of aſſuring you, that I am,

Madam,

Rome.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

I have

I have been, ſince I wrote my letter, to ſee two pictures of Salvator Roſa; they are landſchapes extremely fine. It is difficult to do juſtice to any kind of paintings by a deſcription, but particularly theſe; therefore I will not make an attempt. An imaginary landſchape, in a poem of Lord Littleton's, I think is the prettieſt I ever ſaw in writing. After ſeeing the pictures, I paid a viſit to a convent; there was a young girl, juſt come to town to take the veil, the handſomeſt perſon I have ſeen in Italy. It is unneceſſary to obſerve, the women in theſe religious houſes, are, in general, more beautiful than in France, as the Romans are a finer people; but there are other reaſons why the nuns in Italy ſhould ſurpaſs the French in this reſpect; the cuſtom of taking the veil is more com-

mon, particularly amongſt people of faſhion; and as with them neceſſity, not religion, is the motive, they generally go into orders that are not ſevere; on the contrary, ſee company, are attended, many of them having ſervants; which is not allowed in France, except to royal abbeſſes, and chanoineſſes. Moſt of the French nuns lead a laborious life. I have heard ſome of the Italians have their Cavalieri Servienti, who viſit at the grate, and make preſents: of the office of theſe gentlemen attendants, when attached to the women of the world, there is a comedy of Goldoni's, which gives a juſt idea, as I have been informed by good judges, I do not pretend to be in the number. In Sienna this ſervice is in the higheſt perfection; one woman has ſometimes ſix attendants: a lady of my ac-

acquaintance ſays, ſhe has known many a man as tired of theſe miſtreſſes as ever he knew any one of his wife; but an ideal point of honour, as it is a perſon's own creation, is ſtronger than that which exiſts independent of his will, conſequently an apparent attachment is continued to the former; though very often a man will not give himſelf that trouble with regard to the latter. I find I ſhall make my poſtſcript almoſt as long as my letter. You cannot be ſurpriſed I ſay any thing rather than the painful word, Adieu.

LETTER XXXVIII.

THE capital pictures of Rome, and from their merit, I ſhould imagine of the univerſe, are, firſt, The transfigura-

tion of our Saviour upon the Mount, by Raphael; of this you have heard much, and there are ſo many encomiums, with deſcriptions more juſt than I can give, it will be unneceſſary, and vain, to attempt an addition to their number; and I have nothing to ſay in oppoſition to the general obſervation. St. Jeronymo della Carita, not being univerſally known, you may be unacquainted with the merits of this painting; though, perhaps, upon the whole, they are equal to the piece I have mentioned. This admirable picture is of Domenichini: The dying ſaint is receiving the communion (or rather the viaticum) according to the ceremonies of the Roman church; his countenance is full of the greateſt, and moſt juſt expreſſion. Faith, hope, fear and reverence are blended together;

ther; and his whole perſon is expreſſive of his paſt life, and the great approaching change. The attendant figures are equally good in their ſubordinate rank: this piece, from the unity of action, moſt highly preſerved, is, by ſome critics, preferred to the tranſfiguration; which abounds with more exquiſite beauties, and has the advantange of a more ſublime ſubject, but has not this merit in ſo great perfection. The third picture is in the church belonging to the Minims della Trinita. De monti by Daniel Volterra, ſtiled, La depoſizione di Chriſto della croce; the taking down Chriſt from the croſs. It is compoſed of many figures, the principal has every merit poſſible, and proper, to its ſtate; and all have a great degree. The attention of thoſe who deſcend the dead body (the weight

of which one feels in the view) their fear and reverence in touching the ſacred perſon, are highly expreſſed: the Virgin Mary, who is below the croſs, fainting, is as great an exertion of the artiſt's power as can be ſeen, the ſhadow of death covering her face, but not her ſentiments. This fine piece being upon the wall, has already received much damage in the coloring, and will ſoon loſe all its excellencies. In this church are other paintings of the ſame author: they are, with many more works of great maſters, proofs we ſhould never decide upon the merit of a performance from the name of the artiſt; which is not very uncommon with numbers who are, or at leaſt paſs for, virtuoſo's. It is much the ſame in regard to wit; when a man has once acquired a reputation, a thouſand ſpeeches

paſs

paſs under that denomination without any juſt pretenſions; as many people have no other method of judging but by his name, and thoſe who have ſuperior knowledge, are afraid to aſſert it, in contradiction to the Bon Ton, leſt their own underſtanding, or modeſty, ſhould be called in queſtion. The picture of Saint Romualdo, in a chapel of the order of which he was founder, is added as a fourth piece by ſome judges, but I do not think it has a right to be diſtinguiſhed from many others, which ornament the churches and palaces in this city; indeed, there is not ſubject for a painting of the firſt rank. The figure of the ſaint and his attendant diſciples, are finely colored, and highly finiſhed, and have as much expreſſion as their ſituation will admit; but action, paſſion,

and

and ſentiment, are requiſite, or rather all of them, to form a picture of the firſt merit: this piece is by Sacchi. You will think, Madam, my taſte for painting has abſorbed that of muſic: not in the leaſt; but I cannot ſay the latter has been ſo perfectly ſatisfied as the former: I have heard two or three concerts, which pleaſed me very well, and have been preſent at ſome good church muſic. The Romans ſay they have not ſo many good voices in Rome as they had ſome years ſince: Thoſe in the Pope's chapel are moſt of them old, conſequently not in their higheſt perfection; yet, whatever diſadvantages muſic has at preſent, compared to the advantages it may have had in this place, it is certainly very fine; a ſurprizing eaſe and taſte accompanying the Italians, unknown to any other nation,

tion, but as derived from them; the leaſt air, when performed by their hands, has infinite charms: this perfection not only the muſicians by profeſſion poſſeſs, it attends the people in general; and in taſte alone, it is perſons of faſhion here ſurpaſs the French and Engliſh, in execution they are both ſuperior: the French are very great in this point; their lively and chearful diſpoſition leads to a perpetual practice of a ſcience which diſſipates thought. The natural indolence of the Italians, joined to that acquired by education, renders them, in general, unfit even for ſo pleaſing an application. I believe there are as many great maſters for the harpſichord, and as good muſicians, for the theory of muſic, in England, as any nation; but taſte and elegance, as I before obſerved,

muſt

muſt be learned from the Italians, and perhaps are never ſo highly perfectioned as by a reſidence in this country; an opportunity of ſatisfying, will even give taſte, in ſome degree, as I have experienced by ſtatues; from which I received no pleaſure, till I had ſeen ſeveral at Rome: of the excellent performances in that art, I intended to have ſpoke in my next, had you not commanded another ſubject. Be perſuaded, Madam, obedience to your commands, is a higher pleaſure than can be derived from a contemplation of the greateſt beauties in this place. I am, with infinite reſpect,

Your moſt obedient, &c.

Rome.

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

YOU deſire ſome information with regard to the Stuart family: my principles not leading me into the preſence of the two remaining princes of that race, I muſt ſometimes ſpeak from the authority of others; whenever I do, you will be a gainer, as I ſhall take the ſentiments of thoſe who have judgment infinitely ſuperior to mine. I have ſeen the Prince, en paſſant, and the Cardinal perform maſs: I do not think either of their perſons ſingular enough to merit a particular deſcription. I have heard they are very deſirous of looking like Engliſhmen; they have, in my opinion, more of that appearance than could be imagined from the many fo-

reign circumſtances which attend them. The Prince never had much capacity, though in the year forty-five he certainly ſhewed great ſpirit; ſince that time, the latter has ſunk to an equality with the former, perhaps, in ſome degree, from not having had occaſions to exert it. When he had lived at his uncle's, the Duke de Bouillon's, he led the life of pleaſure and indolence, natural to diſappointed and extinguiſhed hopes. He then appeared ſo little of a bigot, the King of France ſaid to the Duke de Bouillon, J'entends que votre neveu va ſe faire Proteſtant. To which the Duke replied; Pourquoi non; votre Majeſté croit elle qu'il y'a un royaume de difference? One of his friends aſſured me, upon the execution of his followers in England, he was ſo miſerable and melancholic, a French lady went to viſit,

ſit, and addreſſed him in theſe terms; Sir, you are not born to be a King; your life would be unhappy from the value you would ſet upon that of your ſubjects. A very ſenſible, and I ſhould think, diſintereſted man, of the court of France, ſaid this was ſo far from true, during the time abovementioned, he was ſeen at the opera, and every other place of amuſement, with the utmoſt gaiety; even to ſuch a degree, his child remarked (hearing a converſation upon the ſubject) What heart muſt that man have, who could enjoy life when others were loſing it from their attachment to him! As this gentleman is a fond father, I can ſuppoſe him capable of improving his ſon's ſpeech, or giving him his own; but, as a man of honor, I ſhould think it impoſſible he could invent the occaſion; though

there are many French who are not ſuch well-wiſhers to the Stuart family as might be imagined from the agreement of their religious ſentiments. I heard one perſon ſay, very juſtly, Did we not refuſe the throne to the great Henry Quart, meerly from the difference of religion? How much ſtonger then is reaſon on the ſide where every cauſe combines? It is well known the Prince did not find a favorable reception at Rome after his father's death, which obliges him to a life of great ſolitude; as he will not ſee the Italians upon the only terms they are permitted to viſit him, he has no ſociety but his own houſhold, and that is very ſmall. The Cardinal is a man of great piety, and ſtrict morals. As to underſtanding, you are acquainted how great an effort nature made in favor of the family

mily in the perſon of Charles the ſecond; and he ſhewing no gratitude, but, on the contrary, abuſing her valuable gift, ſhe immediately returned to her former negligence. Thoſe who do not like the Cardinal, and ſuch there are (though, as a Cardinal, I can ſee only merit) ſay he is a bigot; his friends, that he is ſtrongly attached to his religion, in the preſent ſtate of the family (in which it will ever remain) this is a point mighty indifferent to an Engliſhman; he will, probably from his influence over his brother, attach him to the Catholic religion, if he is not already attached. The Cardinal has ſeveral benefices in Italy, he is Chancellor of Rome, Arch-prieſt of St. Peter's, and Biſhop of Fraſcati: I believe ſome of theſe are rather honourable than lucrative; but the Priory of St. Amand,

in Flanders, which the Prince received from the King of France, is fifteen or ſixteen thouſand a year ſterling. The Cardinal has great merit in his fraternal affection, as it has roſe in proportion to his brother's diſtreſs, who is obliged to the revenues of a ſtate, in which he highly diſapproved an engagement. You will be ſurpriſed to find me mention natural affection as a merit; I grant you have reaſon, yet I can plead the higheſt authority; for Horace ſpeaks of this kind as a great virtue, as you will not thank me for the Latin, I will endeavour to render the ſenſe in Engliſh, though very indifferently;

Fraternal love gave Proculeius to fame,
On high ſhe ſoars with everduring wings;
And ſounds his name.

To finiſh with the Cardinal, who has ſome talents; he is a very great muſi-

cian,

cian, and many ſay a good preacher. The Italians, as the French, deliver their ſermons without notes, and their deſk being long, gives a greater liberty of action. The Cardinal ſpeaks Engliſh very well, and correctly, but with an accent (though very diſagreeable) not uncommon to Italians of faſhion and education, who ſqueak their language, and conſequently deſtroy the harmony and ſoftneſs which is its excellence, in the mouths of thoſe who ſpeak in the higheſt perfection. The Princeſs Altieri is eſteemed in this rank; ſhe is, without diſpute, the firſt I have heard. The Engliſh, in my opinion, ſucceed extremely well in the Italian language, and have, in general, a fine accent. You will think me very vain for giving my ſentiment on this head; I do not, farther than they are agree-

able to better judges; as I acknowledge I ſpend my time more with the dead than the living. That method of life I ſhall be very happy to change, when I can have the honor of repeating my perſonal aſſurances of the ſincere reſpect with which I am,

Madam,

Rome. Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER XL.

THE palaces of this city are very numerous, I ſhall only ſpeak of the principal. It is the ſame with regard to the painting which ornament their apartments; a detail would take volumes; therefore ſhall particularize thoſe

thoſe alone that preſent themſelves to my memory ſo ſtrongly they oblige me to a diſtinction. The Vatican, the Pope's firſt palace, though not his place of reſidence, is a prodigious large irregular building, without any beauty as to the exterior; but, when you enter this edifice, the grandeur of the apartments, and excellence of the paintings, raiſe the higheſt pleaſure and admiration. The greateſt maſters in Italy here make their efforts to diſplay the powers of their art; beyond them all, Raphael diſtinguiſhes his genius in the higheſt perfection, and his ſuperb battle-pieces are, in general, eſteemed the moſt valuable of his performances, if conſidered with regard to the vaſtneſs of the work, grandeur of the deſign, and multiplicity of figures; he certainly, in theſe, not only ſurpaſſes all

others,

others, but himſelf. Yet there are leſſer pieces, more highly finiſhed, which, I think, give greater pleaſure in the contemplation, though they have not that ſurpriſing grand effect. The ſchool of Athens might amuſe for months; indeed, all Raphael's works ſhould be ſtudied as well as ſeen; their beauties ſpeaking to the Underſtanding yet more than they charm the ſight. The fire is an exceeding good piece; the delivery of St. Peter from priſon, and ſo many others, it is impoſſible to proceed: my memory, upon a firſt view, can retain but a very ſmall part of the excellent paintings which adorn this palace; to them I propoſe frequent viſits: at preſent I will ſpeak of the library, in geneneral terms, as I have of thePictures. You are well acquainted the Vatican library is eſteemed the fineſt

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in the world, whether you conſider the books, or the buildings, in which they are depoſited: the merit of the latter I can atteſt, as to the former, much time muſt be ſpent to form a judgment. I ſhould imagine the learning of the ſchools compoſe too great a part of this library. I can make no other obſervation of this kind of literature, as far as I have heard it adopted by ſome divines, except that it is not ſufficiently clear, to convince, be refuted, or underſtood, but excellent at confuſing the ideas of the audience. This building is painted in compartments, with ſubjects agreeable to the poſſeſſors, and the uſe for which it is deſigned; the hiſtories of Popes and Councils, with other events regarding the church. There are likewiſe a vaſt number of pictures of learned perſons, particularly churchmen.

The paintings have a very fine effect. Indeed it is impoſſible to conceive any thing more beautiful than theſe apartments, or more extraordinary than their amazing length, which is á perte de vue. I will now paſs through the palace to the Belvedere; yet muſt ſtop to look at a Cleopatra, whoſe merit might long engage attention; but upon entering the court of ſtatues, all other ideas are loſt, by a view of the greateſt wonders this art ever preſented to ſight: The principal is the Apollo; where beauty without effeminacy, lightneſs and elegance of figure, without weakneſs, grace, youth, in ſhort, all the perfections which can attend the human figure, are repreſented in the higheſt degree. The Laocoon has as great merit from terrible, and painful, as the Apollo from pleaſing expreſſion. Here

is a fine Antinous, and ſeveral other ſtatues of great beauty and excellence. The celebrated Torſo of Hercules, is, I think, too much maimed for any perſon, who is not an Antiquarian by profeſſion, to diſcover its perfection: there is, indeed, prodigious ſtrength and proportion, as far as remains of the figure; as for the qualities of the ſoul, which Abbot Winkleman pretends to ſee and admire; they might juſt as eaſily be diſtinguiſhed in the nails of a man's fingers as this trunk. In ſhort, I muſt confeſs I am not far enough advanced in my love of antiquity, to have any taſte for this piece, in which I can find no expreſſion, the higheſt beauty and merit of every human figure formed by God or man. It is this ſentiment that renders the following lines of Lord Littleton the moſt comprehenſive, tho'

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the moſt conciſe deſcription it is poſſible to give of beauty, as well as virtue:

Her form each beauty of her mind expreſt;
Her mind was virtue, by the Graces dreſt.

Having theſe ideas, you will not, you cannot, doubt of the admiration with which I am,

Madam,

Rome.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER XLI.

YOU are ſurpriſed I can be ſo long in Rome without mentioning the Pope more particularly. The preſent Pontiff, Rezzonico, has no qualities that command attention; though his Holineſs,

neſs, and the Romans in general, deſerve the eſteem of all ſtrangers, for the eaſy ſituation, and agreeable reception, they find in this city. I will give, in few words, the general character of the Pope; which is perfectly agreeable to what I have heard from thoſe who have the honour of a perſonal acquaintance with his Holineſs.—He is an honeſt man, and good prieſt, but very indifferent prince, not poſſeſſing, in any degree, the talents requiſite for government; nor has he much taſte for the arts and ſciences, who loſt their great protector in Lambertini. In ſpeaking of a Pope, the nephews ſhould be introduced, as they have generally a great ſhare in forming the character of the reign. Theſe gentlemen are, in ſeveral points, a contraſt to each other: the eldeſt, a pious man, would always

do well if his underſtanding could direct the means; and, as it is, being an honeſt man would do ſome good, if a miſtaken devotion did not engage him to ſpend the time at his breviary, when he ſhould be giving audience, and acting for the public welfare. The younger brother is a man of parts, but not ſo well inclined. The city of Rome is very ill inhabited, both in quality and quantity. It is compoſed of princes, or nobility, clergy and beggars, ſcarce any of that rank of people neceſſary to the flouriſhing ſtate of a great city, merchants, artizans, &c. As here is no commerce, and ſo few manufacturers, it is no wonder the people are in ſuch a deplorable ſtate. How deſtructive an eccleſiaſtical government is to the well-being of a country, has been too often demonſtrated for me to

make any valuable additions; therefore I ſhall not dwell upon this Head: indeed, a compariſon of the former ſtate of this city to the preſent, is alone ſufficient demonſtration. I ſhould think this government cannot ſubſiſt long, the revenues decreaſing which aroſe from ſuperſtition, and no other methods taken to ſupply that deficiency. Rome has ſome reſource in the ſtrangers, whom the antique and other curioſities attract, and which by law are forbid to paſs into other nations; but thoſe who can make an advantageous diſpoſal of theſe effects, find means to evade the prohibition. The paintings of private perſons quit their country in great quantities, as England can teſtify: but there will, for many ages, remain in Rome ſufficient to engage all thoſe who have leiſure, and taſte, to viſit this

city. The ruins of ancient buildings, fine modern edifices, and paintings, &c. which belonging to the public, or communities, cannot be alienated; the manners, agreeable to the nature of the government, are, conſequently, very contrary to the proſperity of the city. Indolence, and a paſſion for luxury, and pleaſure, appear the preſent characteriſtics of a people, whoſe natural ſuperiority of genius might lead to diſtinguiſhed actions. I ſaid, in one of my letters, how much we were inferior to the French in love of parade; we are yet more ſo to the Italians. I know an inſtance of a gentleman in France, who, having twenty or thirty ſervants, one ſon and four daughters, was obliged to leſſen his family: he did, by forcing all the ladies to be nuns. I am perſuaded this is too common a circumſtance

cumſtance to be remarked in Rome. Even thoſe who have neither birth, nor bread, attempt equipage and figure; which, I think, is not the caſe in England: and in the general luxury of the ſtates, there is this great difference; the Engliſh ariſes from riches, and encourages commerce; the French and Italian, in ſome points, from poverty, and prevents induſtry: a vaſt number of domeſtics, retained by perſons of moderate fortune, proceeds from the diſtreſs of the people, and continues it, by giving a habit of idleneſs. The great wages of ſervants, high prices of workmen, and dearneſs of proviſions, are thought by ſome evils: in England, they are by no means to be regarded in this light by thoſe who prefer public proſperity to private conveniency; on the contrary, they are ſuch

ſtrong and clear indications that trade and manufactures flouriſh, and riches increaſe, it is ſurpriſing to find perſons ſo fond of looking on the dark ſide of the object, as to imagine any one of theſe circumſtances can drive the Engliſh, particularly the people, into foreign countries: What advantage is it to a man he can buy a pound of meat for one penny, which he may, in ſome parts of Italy (proviſions being cheaper than in France) when he will have more difficulty to gain that one, than ten in England? A Nation where fortunes may be made, and property aſcertained, will ever be well inhabited. As for a few Engliſh, who have ſettled at the head of manufactures in France, they have greater advantages than could be given to numbers; yet, high as are thoſe advantages, I am perſuaded they

would not have been accepted, if thoſe perſons could have enjoyed the privileges of Britiſh ſubjects, to which they were born: I know this is true, with regard to ſome, and muſt ſuppoſe, to all, if they are not very ſhort-ſighted; no one who is not, will, for any preſent advantage to themſelves, deprive their poſterity of an Engliſh Birthright. If ſome families, whoſe fortunes are inconvenient, live in France to make them convenient, it is only for a time; and if they ſucceed, it is not ſo much from the cheapneſs of the country, as being content to live in a leſs way than they chuſe at home; were it otherwiſe, they would be no proof that the common people could find their intereſt in living in France, as theſe deſire not to gain, but ſave; and the difference of expence, in the two nations, is not in

meer neceſſaries of life, but indulgengences, and luxuries. To the Engliſh may be applied this line of Virgil:

O Fortunati nimium! &c.
Thrice happy they! did they but know their bliſs.

Great as are the bleſſings and pleaſures I derive from my country, I eſteem as the higheſt, the honor of declaring myſelf,

Madam,

Rome.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER XLII.

AFTER having made ſo long an excurſion, I return to my antiquities. You commanded, in part, the ſubject of my laſt. I reſt upon the merit of obedience,

dience, nor have any other to claim. I will juſt mention Monte Cavallo, as it is the palace where the Pope conſtantly reſides, the air being eſteemed the fineſt in Rome. The buildings are nothing extraordinary: in the apartments are ſome good paintings, but much inferior to thoſe in the Vatican, and many other palaces, particularly the Collonna, which is in the firſt rank. The gallery is the fineſt I ever ſaw, much ſurpaſſing the celebrated one at Verſailles. The apartment is of a vaſt length, and juſt proportion: at the upper-end are ſome beautiful pillars, of antique yellow marble; but what makes the principal ornament, and riches of this gallery, is the paintings, which, though very numerous, are, in general, of the higheſt merit. The ceiling is very fine, repreſenting the

victory of Lepanto, where Marcus Antonius Collonna commanded. But the beauty of this painting is infinitely surpaſſed by that of the pictures and ſtatues, which decorate each ſide of this magnificent gallery; they are moſt exquiſite. Of theſe, and the paintings in the other apartments, where is every variety of ſtyle, I will ſpeak when I have taken a review; but they are ſo numerous, and beautiful, it is impoſſible to avoid an agreeable confuſion at firſt ſight. Of the Cameo's Intaglio's, &c. I ſay nothing, except that I am extremely pleaſed with what I have ſeen of this kind here, and in other palaces; though little objects, they demand a greater attention than I have yet been able to give them. If I ſtay in Rome the time I propoſe, ſhall endeavour to form a judgment which

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may deſerve your hearing. The Farneſe palace is eſteemed, in point of architecture, the fineſt in this city; Michael Angelo was the architect. The greateſt part of the ſtones of this edifice were taken from the Colloſſeum of Veſpaſian. The entrance of the palace is by a grand portico, ſupported by pillars of the Doric order, and leads to a court whoſe buildings are ſupported by arches, with long corridors. The celebrated ſtatues of Hercules and Flora, are in this court; and in another, is the moſt prodigious and magnificent groupe, which repreſents the fable of Dirce. It is ſurpriſing they do not find ſome place it may ornament, inſtead of being ſhut up as lumber: notwithſtanding the great quantities of fine ſtatues in Rome, this piece deſerves a ſituation where it might be ſeen, and

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the ſize alone would command attention. The grand ſtair-caſe and hall, are enriched by the ſculptor's art, both ancient and modern; amongſt the latter is Alexander Farneſe, crowned by Victory, with Flanders, and the Eſcaut at his feet. In the gallery, painted by Salviati Zuccaro, is repreſented Charles the fifth, and Francis the firſt, giving hands; the memorable acts of Paul the third, and Luther, in conference with the Pope's Nuncio. The fineſt painting in this palace is the gallery, by Hannibal Carracci; the ſubject is, the triumph of Bacchus; the Cyclop is eſteemed a chef d'œvre of that author; it certainly has great merit, but not of the kind which moſt pleaſes me. If the ſcheme propoſed had taken place, of joining the little Farneſe to this palace by a bridge, it would

would have been one of the fineſt in Europe; and the interior beauty would have been correſpondent. The paintings in the Longara, being moſt exquiſite, they are by Raphael; the Loves of Cupid and Pſyché the ſubject: No pencil but his could have executed ſuch a work, the beauty and variety of expreſſion is incomparable. In the Feaſt of the Gods, the particular attributes of each divinity are ſo finely marked, and with ſuch ſtrength, they ſpeak at once themſelves, and the great hand which drew them. I could dwell upon the beauties of Venus and Pſyché; the inexpreſſible grace of the former, when ſhe petitions the gods in favour of Cupid; the motion of the goddeſs, requiring the pen of Virgil, or the great modern Engliſh poet, to deſcribe (mine can give no idea) the different

charms

charms of Pſyché, agreeable to her change of ſituation; and how finely Raphael has realized the graces. But I find, though in ſpeaking of this palace I have been far from entering into a detail; yet I have been tedious, at leaſt I fear you will think me ſo, and not permit a performance of my promiſe, with regard to others. Tell me freely your ſentiments, I ſhall, at any time, quit the moſt pleaſing ſcenes Rome can exhibit, for the pleaſure of writing. I am,

Madam,

Rome.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

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LETTER XLIII.

THE Barbarini palace is eſteemed in the firſt rank; it appears to me rather a large houſe, ſomething is wanting to conſtitute the idea of palace; if derived from the building, if from the inhabitants, this has the ſame pretenſions as many others; each floor has a ſuite of nine or ten grand apartments; in the firſt are ſome fine Cartoons, by Pietro Cortona and Romanelli; the riches of this family were ſo prodigious in pictures and ſtatues, large as the houſe is, great quantities lay rolled in upper apartments; and though the preſent princes have diſpoſed of a vaſt number, a conſiderable treaſure yet remains. The piece which moſt ſtruck

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and pleaſed me, is the death of Germanicus, by Pouſſin. I do not give this as my particular taſte, for I believe it has as many admirers as obſervers: How can it be otherwiſe, where a great and happy execution attends a moſt noble and affecting ſubject. In one of the apartments is a fragment of Moſaic, repreſenting Europa, taken from the ancient temple Della fortuna Preneſtina, and a picture of the *Otto*, of Florence, (or rather the reſemblance) made of earth, by the touch of Giovanni da Gambaſi, a blind man. Theſe I mention as curioſities; a child, by Guido Reni, pleaſed me greatly, from its beauty. In this ſuite of apartments are many pictures by Titian, a Madonna by Raphael: in the grand hall are many Cartoons by Andrea Sacchi, and Pietro Cortona: the roof is painted by the latter. A picture

ture of a cavalcade, by Tempeſta, pleaſed me from the idea it gives of that ancient and magnificent ſhew; this was taken from an entertainment given in the Piazza Barbarini, upon a marriage of one of the family. In this place are the ſmall antique ſtatues of the three Graces, two pictures by Leonard da Vinci; whoſe value is greatly enhanced, from the ſmall number remaining of that author's works. With regard to the celebrated Magdalen by Guido, I muſt beg leave to diſſent from the general opinion. I have heard, a thouſand pounds were offered for this piece; to particular taſte no bounds can be ſet, but it was certainly more than the value of this picture, according to the ſentiments of moſt connoiſſeurs (though their eſtimation is high) and much, much more, if I may be per-

mitted to ſpeak mine. Hamilton's picture of innocence ſold, I believe, for about fifty pounds; write Guido under that, and a modern name under this figure, and, I am perſuaded, the difference would not be ſo great. The Magdalen, by Guido, is repreſented in the wilderneſs, as plump and well-looking as ſhe could have been in Herod's court. I have read a ſermon where many of the higheſt authorities are brought to prove her face was in that taſte, and as many to prove the contrary: the preacher determines at laſt with great *Juſtice*, her countenance changed according to her manner of life. This being a French ſermon, unhappily Guido has not received the leaſt advantage from ſuch an excellent performance. In the Borgheſe palace is a ſmall Magdalen, by Hannibal Carracci, which,

which, in my opinion, has infinitely more merit: in this piece, penitence, and horror of her crimes, are painted in the ſtrongeſt colors; nor does the author ſacrifice expreſſion and propriety of character, to beauty; (as does Guido) One ſees ſhe has been handſome, but haggard cheeks, and enlarged features, leave only the remains. Where Guido ſhines, and where alone he is equal to the other great maſters, is when beauty and grace are the ſole requiſite expreſſion: ſuch is his Aurora, in the Roſpoglioſi palace, to which I can give no encomiums that will, in any degree, do it juſtice: call to mind the moſt beautiful and luxuriant deſcription, by the greateſt poetical genius, of Aurora, and her attendant figures; and here ſee it realized. Such is the perfect beauty and excellency of

this piece, I could for ſome time look at no other painting; the ideas are raiſed to ſuch a height, the mind delights to dwell upon them, and receives, as an intruſion, all inferior objects; even the reflection takes me from the Barberini palace, nor can I ſubſtitute any ideas which are adequate, but thoſe regarding the beauty of her to whom I am

A moſt obedient

Rome.

humble ſervant, &c.

LETTER XLIV.

IT is to little purpoſe I return to the Barberini palace; the beauties which it contains are too numerous to be deſcribed;

ſcribed; fine Baſſo-relievos, one repreſenting an hunting match, another a funeral. The ſtatue of the celebrated faun ſleeping; ſome pieces by Pietro Perugino, in which may be ſeen how much the maſter is inferior to his great ſcholar Raphael. Here is a picture of the miſtreſs of the latter. It would have been very unhappy for the world if he had painted beauty from the particular object of his paſſion (as have ſome artiſts) inſtead of the perfect archetype exiſting in his own mind: as I do not pretend to be Antiquarian or of the Virtuoſi, but meerly for the pleaſure of communicating my ſentiments to you, and with the hopes of contributing to your amuſement; for this reaſon I change my ſcene as often as poſſible, if it may be called a change, from the Barberini to the Borgheſe palace;

which is much admired, and with juſtice, for magnificent architecture: but what infinitely more deſerves the attention of all who can ſee or underſtand, (for particular knowledge is not requiſite to be charmed with the ſpeaking excellencies of theſe paintings) is the vaſt number of original pictures, ſaid to be ſeventeen hundred. Where to give the prize, I am as much diſtreſt as Paris on Mount Ida; I certainly ſhall not decide like him: for this moment, St. Anthony, tempted in the deſert, ſtrikes me; Saints and Devils are a contraſt to Venus; as the former are chaſte, the latter frightful. This ſubject has no merit in itſelf, but, in the hands of Hannibal Carracci it becomes worthy the higheſt admiration. The ſtrong expreſſion for which that ſurpriſing maſter is ſo juſtly renowned, is no

no where more exerted than in this piece; here is a kind of Miltonic merit, he with his pencil, as the poet with his pen, draws from the imagination. I could not examine, as I wiſhed, the Saint, and his wicked ſociety; the picture being placed in ſo bad a light, with many others, is a proof how little the proprietors know the value of the treaſure they poſſeſs; or the paintings would be arranged, as might not only give facility to the obſerver, but add much to the beauty and apparent merit of the collection. In ſpite of the mal-arrangement, the pleaſure I receive is inexpreſſible; and I can diſtinguiſh Domenichini's Muſe, his St. Cecilia, with a countenance expreſſive of the harmony reſiding in her ſoul. Many other pieces of that author, ſome by Raphael, though the laſt has not a

great number of works in this palace; but Titian, Guido, and, in general, the greateſt maſters in Italy, have ornamented theſe apartments with their beautiful and amazing performances, which I ſhall leave for a ſeries of letters, with the paintings of the Collonna and Vatican, if you are not more than contented with what I have already wrote. I will finiſh with the Corſini palace, that does not require ſo much time and attention; though here is variety, and ſome good authors; an Ecce Homo by Guercino, exquiſitely fine; a beautiful Madonna by Guido. It is certain, the veneration Catholics have for ſacred images and paintings is not ſo ridiculous (though equally blameable when carried to a high degree) in Italy as France; where I made a great blunder, taking the celebrated Notre Dame de Clery, for

St. Louis; obſerving, at the ſame time, the figure was rather too old and ugly for that monarch: I was aſſured my ſentiments would have changed had I ſeen the image in holiday robes. The French Ideas of beauty are by no means in the Madonna ſtyle. In this palace is a Madonna della Sedia, in needle-work, that I leave to the ladies, prefering the effects of the pencil as more beautiful, though the cauſe is leſs extraordinary. Here is a portrait by Tintoret, and many other pieces, which would be highly eſteemed were they not in Rome: but this city has ſo great a number of the firſt merit, thoſe not in the firſt rank have no great effect. I ſee here, for the firſt time, ſome very pleaſing pictures by the Roſalba, who was the greateſt hand in her ſtyle of painting. It is to be lamented more

of the fair ſex have not attempted this art, from the ſucceſs of ſome who have ſtudied as an amuſement, I ſhould imagine thoſe who applied to it as a profeſſion, would be very excellent. Lady Anſon, if her high birth, and yet much greater talents and merit, had not given a ſuperior diſtinction, might have been celebrated for this ſcience. The picture of Herodias's daughter, dreſſed as a dancer, with St. John the Baptiſt's head, is, by ſome perſons, much admired. When I ſay it is by Guido, you will conclude the figure is beautiful; for that author will ſacrifice the greateſt merit of his art, ſooner than diſtort a ſingle feature in a fine face. As the barbarous act was not her own choice, he might have given compaſſion, which ſoftens and heightens beauty; but I ſuppoſe he judged

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by the mother, that ſentiment could not belong to the daughter; therefore has repreſented her with an air as inſipidly lively, having the charger and head, as if ſhe had a baſket of flowers in her hand. So long a letter will induce you to give immediate conſent to the favour I aſk, of ſaying I am,

Madam,

With the greateſt reſpect,

Rome. Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER XLV.

TO change the ſubject in ſome degree, I will ſpeak of the public beauties which ornament this city; amongſt theſe are the obeliſks: A very fine one, with Egyptian hieroglyphics, is placed

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in the Piazza del Popolo, where it has a great effect, not only at the entrance of the gate, but as it forms a point of view to ſeveral ſtreets. It was made five hundred and twenty-two years before the birth of our Saviour, and brought from Heliopolis to Rome, in the reign of Auguſtus. In the Piazza Navonna, which is very handſome from the buildings and ornaments (not from the figure, for that has no merit) is another Egyptian Obeliſk: It forms a point to the capital fountain, which is in a large baſon covered with white marble. In the middle of the baſon riſes a rock cut into four grottos; at each is a noble ſtatue, repreſenting one of the following great rivers: The Danube, with an oar in his hand; the Ganges, by the figure of a Moor; the Nile, with his head covered; and the

fourth

fourth is the Silver River, or River de la Plata. In this Piazza is another fountain, diſtinguiſhed for the great ſhell of marble; but meer marble is too common to deſerve a look in Italy, except from a reflection on the beautiful and ſurpriſing ſhapes into which it may be wrought. This city has, in moſt Piazzas, many ſtreets, and even houſes and fountains; I cannot gueſs at the number, it is ſo great: the idea of their uſe, and the refreſhment they convey in ſo hot a country, adds much to their beauty. Above them all, I muſt diſtinguiſh the fountain Di Trevi, which ſurpaſſes every thing of the kind I ever ſaw. The performance is modern, and a demonſtration the ſame ſublimity of deſign and execution, attends the preſent, as the ancient Romans, if they had as great advantages:

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This fountain being alone more ſtrikingly noble than all the water-works at Verſailles. Perhaps you will think me partial to Rome, and all I ſee in this city. I acknowledge I had rather reſide here than in Paris; yet I can diſcern where the latter has the advantage. Les places, from the regularity of the figure and uniformity of their buildings, as well as ſize, have ſuch a ſuperiority, it is almoſt an affront to name them with the Piazzas of Rome; which are all contemptibly little, except the Piazza Navonna, and that is irregular in all reſpects. The apartments of the French hotels are more conveniently diſpoſed than the Italian. The public walks at Paris are great beauties, and very agreeable; the conſtant theatrical entertainments; ſome in high perfection, are yet greater pleaſures:

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but theſe appear to me inferior merits; however, they are all truth can give. Had we a preference for the Italians, it would not be ſurpriſing: they highly diſtinguiſh the Engliſh; indeed they have a ſovereign hatred for the French, whoſe vanity will not acknowledge this point. Frenchmen, who have never been out of their own province, declare, Que le François eſt aimé partout; and thoſe whom experience has convinced to the contrary, ſay, it is the jealouſy of the Italian huſbands which makes them fear the agreeableneſs, and conſequently hate a Frenchman; but whoever has made any reſidence in Rome knows Roman jealouſy bids fair to be as great an antique, as any this city can produce; and if the Italians really had this paſſion to as high a degree as the French chuſe to imagine, the number

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of that nation who visit Italy, is not sufficiently great to raise a general hatred, which goes so far, if you name a French Saint, the common answer is, E gran santo, e peccato che sia Francese, he is a great saint; it is a pity he is a Frenchman. The reason of this aversion, which has descended from father to son, ever since the wars the French have had with the Italians, is the ravages committed by the former; the Italians say they were too great to be forgot in a few generations. I have heard more than one French officer avow, their troops are too wantonly cruel, even for their own interest, destroying in one day what might support them ten, all the commands of their officers (notwithstanding their strict discipline) having been often ineffectual to restrain the common soldiers; this made the Duke

de Randan's ſucceſs in that point, do him particular honour the laſt war. Whatever is committed contrary to humanity, muſt, in general, be imputed to the people, who, on ſeveral occaſions, have demonſtrated they do not merit the character given to the Engliſh by a French writer; Un peuple ſage dans ſa fureur; an eulogium, I hope they will continue to deſerve. I have ſtrayed greatly from my ſubject; but all are equally foreign where you, Madam, are not immediately concerned, to whom I am,

Rome. A moſt obedient ſervant, &c.

P. S. I have been to the church of the Santi Giacomo ed Ildefonſo, to ſee two pieces of ſculpture, of which I had heard much praiſe. The Italian terms

appear

appear to me very absurd, viz. Teste dell'anima beata, e dell anima dannata. The heads of a soul in bliss, and of a soul damned; but the expression of happiness in the one, and misery in the other, is well executed. I have been present, on some occasions, to hear the music, which is esteemed good; it was so, but not equal to my expectations. I was, a few days since, at a Cardinal's grand mass, when, as upon all great feasts, celebrated by great men, the altar seemed converted into a toilet. The first time I saw this ceremony was in a grand mass, performed by the Archbishop of Rouen, when I could not help expressing my surprize, a man of his singular piety, could endure such a parade at his devotions. I was answered, C'est n'est pas ce que nous avons de mieux, mais l'usage en est le maitre;

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an apology as unprejudiced and reasonable as could be made.

LETTER XLVI.

I AM this moment returned from the Colonna Trajana, which is ſtill entire; a noble monument of antiquity, and the gratitude of the ſenate, and Roman people, to the excellent man whoſe name it bears. This pillar is now badly ſituated; yet one may conceive how great muſt have been the effect when it was placed in the midſt of the Forum, built by the ſaid Emperor; upon this Colonna is repreſented the Dacian war. It is obſerved, from the figures of theſe baſſo relievos, which are finely executed, Raphael

took the habits and arms of his warriors, in some of the Vatican battle pieces. I could give the exact dimensions of this fine monument, but they would add very little to your idea of its beauty, which is very great. At the top of the pillar was a statue of Trajan, with a scepter and globe, where were his ashes. St. Peter now supplies his place. I had wrote thus far when I was favoured with your letter, in that you ask, amongst other questions, Whether murders are as common in Italy as has been represented? in answer to this I can only say, none have happened in Rome within my knowledge; which, perhaps, is no more than a proof these accidents have not happened to persons of consequence. News-papers, where those and many other private events are published, I be-

believe, are peculiar to England. A French lady argued, We muſt have more murders in England than in any nation, for ſhe could read Engliſh, and ſaw them in the papers: ſhe might, by parity of reaſon, have ſaid, more children were born there than in the Grand Signior's dominions. To do juſtice to the Italians, as far as a few months reſidence in Rome will permit me, I can ſee nothing in the diſpoſition of the people to render murder more frequent than in other nations; that they were ſo in this city, and are yet in parts of Italy, muſt be owing to a defect in the government, their great poverty, and the eaſe with which they eſcaped puniſhment; thoſe who could not pay ſums of money, taking refuge at privileged altars, a great abuſe and diſhonour to religion. The poverty of

the people remains, but the other causes leſſen every day, and the effects will ſoon be inſenſible. It is certain, the light of the reformation extends to thoſe who do not embrace its doctrine. The Roman Catholics, as you may imagine, will not acknowledge this truth; on the contrary, they alledge, Proteſtantiſm has, in ſome degree, deſtroyed religion, and that a general liberty of conſcience would compleat the deſtruction. To ſtrengthen this, they talk of the piety of former ages, and the decreaſe of religion in the preſent; which cannot be granted, unleſs, as I ſuppoſe, the definition of religion is very different. If the Catholic ideas only reach the external pomp and practice of ceremonies, with a belief of all the church of Rome commands, they have reaſon in this light; but if, as I believe,

lieve, all Proteſtants underſtand the Chriſtian religion, morality making the moſt eſſential part, we have only to compare, with coolneſs and impartiality, paſt ages to the preſent, and we ſhall find the ſuperiority of the latter, tho' not ſo great as might be wiſhed. The vices and faults of the ancients are viewed at a diſtance, their effect cannot extend to us, while thoſe of cotemporaries are in the ſtrongeſt point of light; and we may ſometimes ſee too much by them to judge with indifference. The Governor of this city is an Eccleſiaſtic, as is natural in a prieſtly government; the principal offices are held by perſons in that profeſſion; the commanders of the gallies alone excepted. They are all men of high birth. I have heard a gentleman obſerve, thoſe veſſels contain a heaven, and a hell; but I ſhould

have no idea of enjoying the former ſo near the latter. Even the Pope's guards have a prelate for their commander; I did not remark them when I ſaw his Holineſs; but I well remember his ſoldiers at Avignon were a burleſque upon every thing that is military. The Police in this city is very exact, and extends to many points, the honeſty or eaſy circumſtances of the Engliſh tradeſmen renders unneceſſary. Notwithſtanding the Etiquette is ſo high, ſome years ſince, at a concert in Cardinal Prince Stuart's palace, three or four Italians left the aſſembly on hearing one of the company was engaged in commerce, (a perſon preſent aſſured me, he who gave the offence was a man of quality, ſome of the offended not gentlemen) yet they allow themſelves, in the French term, to faire valoir;

loir; which they do, to ſo high a degree, once this winter, by a monopoly of oil, ſaid to be made by ſeveral perſons of the firſt rank, the poor were deprived of this neceſſary. How far commerce and nobility may be inconſiſtent, in ſome countries, I will not pretend to determine, nor have any intereſt in the deciſion; but this is very clear, thoſe who deſpiſe the honeſt part of buſineſs, and the commerce advantageous to the public, ſhould not deſcend to practiſe by themſelves, or agents, what is the reverſe. The vaſt number of new families made every reign by the nature of this government, are very prejudicial to the public. The Popes give rank and titles, but their ſupport muſt come directly or indirectly from the people; the foreign reſources, as I have obſerved upon another occaſion,

being very inconsiderable: as there is always a probability of a short reign, the expenditure is the greater (and consequently the oppression) in acquiring fortunes; and if success is not equal to their efforts, pensions from charitable foundations are often given to support rank. Whether a man is called Duke, Prince, Count, or by his name, is a point of no essential consequence to the public; but if they are to pay the title, it is a high injustice, unless he has merited it by his services to the nation; and when that is the case, there will never be even a murmur, that claimants are too numerous. If one was to come immediately from England to Rome, the astonishment would be great, to find it is impossible to speak to an Italian who has not a title; but it is not so striking in France, where the

ladies sometimes create a Marquis, as they name a trump; this title being very common, and indeed Count is so in a great degree, Monſ. de Neſle, who was a Marquis, and might pretend to any title from his great and ancient family, had, in his brevet, when he went to compliment the Czar, Peter the Great, this diſtinction, Premier gentilhomme de France. I have heard ſeveral of the beſt families in Rome never would accept titles. I will conclude this letter with an anecdote concerning Lambertini, which ſhews how very injurious he thought giving rank, except commanded by merit, was to this city. He had a nephew, a ſtudent at Rome; he called for him, and ſaid, in the preſence of his tutor, Sir, depend not upon your relation to me; you came a poor gentleman from Bologna,

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and ſuch you will return, if ſuperior merit does not command ſuperior rank. I believe you will think with me, the Pope's public ſpirit was too rigid. He was ſo exact to his word, the young man had no benefice at his uncle's death, nor many years afterwards. At length a perſon of quality in Bologna (the nephew having nothing bad in his character) procured him ſome conſiderable preferment, as a mark of gratitude to the ſelf-denial of Lambertini. I am,

Madam,

Rome. Your moſt obedient, and

Moſt humble ſervant, &c.

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LETTER XLVII.

THOUGH I have not yet examined the beauties of all the palaces in the city, to change the ſcene, I make little excurſions to the villas of the nobility, which adds much to the agrémens of this place. I will firſt ſpeak of the Villa de Medicis, as it is within the walls. The houſe, but for the baſſo relievos adorning the front towards the garden, would not deſerve attention, they are fine; the remarkable actions of the Romans are the ſubjects. Near the houſe are ſeveral valuable antique ſtatues; and there are ſome in an alcove on the right. What calls for the higheſt admiration, is a groupe of figures repre-

representing Niobe and her children, by Praxiteles. The ſtatue of Niobe is eſteemed one of the fineſt ever made; the proportion is certainly exquiſite, and the beauty great; but I have ſeen pieces of ſculpture, to me, more pleaſing. The gardens are in the ſtate of thoſe whoſe proprietors have either wanted taſte or fortune to change their form for theſe hundred years: their only advantage is the command of a fine and extenſive view of the city. I ſhould except the ornaments, for added to the ſtatues, there is a ſmall but beautiful obeliſk. I believe Rome has, at leaſt, fifty of theſe ancient monuments. In the apartments of this villa is the little Apollo, and other ſtatues of merit. When I return to England, all houſes will appear empty and incompleat, which have not theſe ornaments

or

or paintings. Aprôpos to this subject you will soon see the performances of Chrisson, a Frenchman, who not finding encouragement here, proposes to go to England. What I saw of the antiquities, I knew gave me reason to conclude, that those with whom I was acquainted were represented with justice. I think he has merit, and am charmed to see the beauties of antiquity travel to England in every form and style. The Villa Borgheſe, in Porta Pinciana, is a ſmall diſtance from the city; the entrance is by a handſome portone, over which is a baſſo relievo, repreſenting a Roman ſacrifice. You have a fine long walk in view; but the verdure has a pleaſing effect, and the weather is warm enough to enjoy that pleaſure, though the ſeaſon is ſo far advanced. The houſe is ſmall, and like the Villa di

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Medicis, derives its beauty from the rich ſculpture with which it is decorated, and ſurpaſſes the former, in this reſpect, having three Facciate ornamented: the principal has not only baſſo-relievos, but ſeveral antique ſtatues; thoſe of Marcus Aurelius, and Marcus Antoninus; the buſts of Trajan and Adrian. The baſſo-relievos repreſent various ſingular actions and events, related in the Roman hiſtory: The peace between the Romans and Sabines; Curtius leaping into the gulph for the preſervation of his country: Theſe give great pleaſure in the view, but would not in a relation, at leaſt, by my pen. In the apartments are ſome good ſtatues, both antique and modern; ſeveral baſſo-relievos, one with Cupid and Venus, ſuppoſed to be by Praxiteles; Bacchus upon a ſepulchre,

chre, on which is engraved the death of Meleager; a ſtatue of Agrippina; the heads of Livia, and Berenice; but I will not pretend to give a detail, as I ſhall only fill my letters with names of objects whoſe beauties I cannot deſcribe, and even of the names my memory may not preſent thoſe moſt deſerving attention. Bernini has many performances in thoſe apartments: his David going to engage Goliah, is eſteemed a piece of great merit. When I firſt came to Rome, I was greatly charmed with a monument in the Madonna della Vittoria, where an angel deſcends to Saint Teresa, who is dying. This is the work of Bernini. Now this, and every modern piece of ſculpture, want that noble ſimplicity, with which the ancient are generally attended. Do not imagine this inclination for anti-

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quity leſſens my reſpect for the moſt perfect of the moderns. You know, in virtue, I give the ſuperiority to the latter; Can I do otherwiſe? when I reflect on the great merit of her to whom I am,

A moſt obedient ſervant, &c.

Rome.

I have been to ſee the Roman baths, or rather their remains: their preſent ſtate is ſuch, they convey no ideas, but thoſe of the vaſtneſs and grandeur of that nation's works. Points ſo well known, it is unneceſſary to enlarge upon the ſubject, particularly to a perſon well read in Roman hiſtory. It is ſome time ſince father Laſure and Jacquier left Rome; they are a loſs to all the ſocieties they frequented. I am far

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from being partial to their state, but I prefer the conversation of an intelligent Monk, to that of an ignorant Prince, and the former has, at least, the merit of being as true as the latter. These fathers are gone to Parma: they are appointed preceptors in Mathematics to the Prince of that place. Before they went from this city, the Pope gave them a dispensation as to habit, as well as food, theirs being inconvenient to a court life, as when they were obliged to pay obedience to monastic rules. Rousseau's observation could not, I believe, be applied to them; the human mind is too limited to embrace every object: the Monks attached and exact to perform the Minutiæ of religion, forget the essential, to be [illegible]

LETTER XLVIII.

I SHOULD be happy to employ more time in obeying your commands than my preſent ſituation will permit. In ſpeaking of the amuſements in this city, I will begin with the Lago, not from excellency, but peculiarity. The Piazza Navonna, on this occaſion, is laid under water about three feet deep, in which the coaches drive with ladies dreſt as for a ball. Many more behold this diverſion, exhibition, or whatever denomination you pleaſe to give, from the ringheras, or balconies; where they are attended by Abbots, the Petits Maitres of this place. The women were very numerous, and

of the firſt rank; but I think there is more beauty in the lower claſs, and in this ſentiment I am not ſingular. I did not ſee above two or three girls of faſhion; they are, in general, ſhut up in Convents till a propoſal of marriage is made; if none is made before a certain age, they are there for life. The extraordinary amuſement I have mentioned, is to be ſeen only the four Sundays in Auguſt, when the weather is exceſſively hot, and the city regarded as unwholeſome; yet a great many perſons of condition ſtay in town. I am inclined to think it is only in ſome particular quarters of Rome that the air is bad; where the Engliſh lodge, in general, I believe is always ſalubrious; the Trinita dé Monti is remarkably ſo; and I conclude, wherever the nobility inhabit, or they would be more diſ-

posed to a country life, for which they appear to have less inclination than even the French; perhaps they have reason, after speaking of the diversion in Piazza Navonna, you will think Rome is distreſt on that head. Here are concerts perpetually, some balls, and I believe, in the carnival, all sorts of diversions, from the Opera to Punchinello; excepting this season, I should imagine time must hang heavy upon the hands of the inhabitants, though it is far otherwise with me: in general they have no taste for the curiosities of the place, nor do they love study, or even books of amusement. French is less understood in this, than any polite city of Europe; very few women, though of the highest rank, converſing or reading in that language; which is a loss; for notwithstanding many

many nations have more writers of the firſt merit; yet, from the French, may be collected a uſeful and entertaining library; they, in general, write with preciſion, and other excellencies advantageous to perſons whoſe inclinations, or capacities do not lead to ſuperior ſtudies: the Engliſh leſs want, and and are more ready to claim, the aſſiſtance of their neighbours than any other nation. The Italians have not a great number, nor variety of authors, but they have ſome moſt excellent; Dante, Taſſo, and Arioſto. The French cannot pretend to a compariſon in heroic poetry: We have Spencer for Arioſto; and Milton ſurpaſſes Taſſo; Dante I underſtand enough highly to admire, but perhaps not to do juſtice by a deciſion. The paſtoral poetry of the Italians I think excels all others, though

I know it is not beyond criticiſm. In general, the writers of this nation are poets, to whom their language is very advantageous. I believe the Italians are too idle to write, if genius or neceſſity does not command. The French are the reverſe; many ſcribble for pleaſure, what none, except themſelves or particular friends, will ever read; but, in the great numbers, ſome ſucceed; and this diſpoſition gives an amazing variety of ſubjects, as well as authors. I read your favorite Metaſtaſio with greater pleaſure than ever; though his ſtile is eaſy, yet, from a farther knowledge of the pronunciation, there is certainly a great deal in the harmony of the verſe, which this author particularly ſtudied, as he wrote for muſic. Haſſe was always inclined to compoſe for his operas, with leſs pay than other

writers; the ſtrong ſenſe leading to adequate ſounds. The Italians, I was going to ſay, (when their poetry took me from my ſubject) appear rather diſpoſed to learn a language more advantageous than the French, in point of reading and knowledge, but where they would find more difficulty, I mean, the Engliſh; in my opinion the analogy of the Britiſh and Italian character is greater than that of either of thoſe nations and the French. It is remarkable, though the French very ſoon ſpeak Italian, as far as is neceſſary for uſe, yet they never arrive at any great perfections: the languages appear to me analogous as to the formation of the words, not ſo in the idioms and accent; this, I ſhould think, muſt be the reaſon. How very low the Italian comic writers are at preſent, Goldoni is a

proof; for he is read, and I have heard the repreſentation was applauded. Indeed an author for the Theatre, tho' he may ſtrengthen and heighten his characters, muſt, in comedy, draw from life. Moliere's works were, and are yet, in a great degree, the characteriſtics of his nation; much, and variety of ridicule in the people in general, their ſhare of vice, as far as it is in the ſphere of a comic writer to repreſent, and, at the ſame time, ſome characters, whoſe wit, knowledge, and virtue, do honor to the human race. There is a poverty of character amongſt the preſent Romans (I have heard the ſame with regard to the Italians in general) not from any defect in genius; for they appear in this, as in former ages, to receive much from nature. You may ſee in the children, though lively, a

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ſedateneſs and reflection, which, if properly applied and cultivated, muſt produce great and good effects; but unhappily for them, this fine, natural genius degenerates from a defect in education, and the contracted circle in which it is obliged to act. The underſtanding is principally exerted in caballing for private intereſts; no wonder it ſhould it be ſo, where the pretenſions to the higheſt rank, and moſt ſacred office, are decided by no other means than a ſuperior cabal. Public ſpirit ſhews its head in France, though it is obliged to caution; here it makes no attempt. Much time is given to gallantry, when not inconſiſtent with affairs; and here, as in the French nation, they endeavour to unite them. Theſe diſpoſitions are ſo ſtrong, thoſe who have no particular perſon to engage,

gage, nor are concerned in church preferments, find the converſation very inſipid. My opinion in this point could have no weight; but it is the ſentiment of many, that have much frequented them. A conſiderable perſon of a northern court, who preſented himſelf at one of the firſt aſſemblies, in all reſpects declared he had the utmoſt difficulty to ſtay the time politeneſs required, the converſation turning entirely upon promotions in the church, and other topics, in which it was impoſſible for any but the parties immediately concerned to be intereſted. I have been in company with ſome Italians, who were eſteemed wits; but I think they owed that diſtinction to their ſociety, with whom they were compared; at leaſt they muſt appear in that light to thoſe who have had the

honor

honor of converſing with Mr. Grey, and other perſons of ſuperior genius in England; a happy and free government not only ſecures the greater bleſſings of life, but gives birth to wit, humor, and every agreement of converſation. Perhaps I have made this obſervation already, and I am perſuaded thouſands have made it before me; but you muſt pardon the repetition of a ſentiment ſo natural, and to which all I hear, and every object I ſee, contributes. I am afraid you will think me as tedious as the northern miniſter did the Italian converſazione. Take the advantage, throw my letter aſide, or burn it; but let me firſt tell you I am, with the greateſt eſteem and reſpect,

Madam,

Rome. Your moſt obedient, &c.

P. S.

P. S. Tho' you may feel envy at the Italian converſazioni, you will not have that opportunity at their tables; in this point the French much ſurpaſs them; added to thoſe who, from their places, have appointments from the court to entertain. Every gentleman who pretends to figure, has both an elegant and hoſpitable houſe. I know one in particular, a Norman, in this reſpect he lives more like a prince than any man at Rome, and has a wife to do the honors of his table, who has a beauty as pleaſing as the Italians, the virtues and accompliſhments of every, without the defects of any nation. I made no great uſe of this ſociable manner of living; yet I think hoſpitality, at leaſt, as requiſite to a gentleman as equipage and attendance; though

though I do not carry it quite ſo far as the French, in thinking it neceſſary to the ſtate of a dead perſon. All thoſe of the very higheſt rank, as long as they reſt on earth, have a table ſerved in the apartment where their remains are depoſited, an attendant approaches the corps, and ſays; Monſieur, ou Madame, eſt ſervi.

LETTER XLIX.

I HAVE long intended to ſpeak of the Campidoglio, but the great variety made me regard as impoſſible a diſtinction of objects, where all are curious and excellent: for this collection the public are obliged to a Pope, who did honor to the Italian nation, Lambertini.

tini. As you aſcend the capitol, may be ſeeen many pieces of antiquity; but you are ſoon forced from them, by an object in the midſt of the court, which entirely fills the ſight and mind, declaring its own ſuperiority ſo highly, neither knowledge, nor attention are requiſite to diſcern the merits: This is the equeſtrian ſtatue of Marcus Aurelius, whoſe perfection is equal to that of the great good man it repreſents: as you have not ſeen this maſter-piece of ſtatuary, no words can give an adequate idea; and if you had, you would ſay, in Shakeſpeare's phraſe, it beggars all deſcription. After quitting this exquiſite performance, imagine what muſt be the merits of thoſe objects which can engage attention. Before you enter the apartments, are vaſt numbers of fine antique ſtatues, ſome ancient tombs, parti-

particularly that of Alexander Severus; theſe, by their excellence, induce one to reſt, and at the ſame time incite the curioſity to proceed, where you are charmed by a curious collection of pictures; Romulus and Remus, the rape of the Sabines, a Sybil, and a thouſand others; ſome deſerve examination for the remarkable antient events repreſented; ſeveral raiſe admiration by their beauty, and there are ſome with both theſe perfections; but the collection of ſtatues, buſts, and baſſo-relievos, ſurpaſſes much, in real value, the paintings; though not in the ſame degree pleaſing to me, at leaſt not ſo ſtriking. The baſſo-relievos illuſtrate many events in ancient hiſtory, and their figurative expreſſion atteſts the luxuriant and elevated genius of the authors. I could amuſe myſelf for weeks in reading

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ing the emblematical writings upon ſome of the antique ſepulchres. I have ſeen this collection but once, the next time will take notes. It is a common obſervation, Great wits have ſhort memories; in ſome reſpects I believe they may: having a genius fertile in raiſing ideas, renders them inattentive to thoſe exterior objects in general preſent, and of their own, the ſucceſſion is ſo quick, the impreſſion cannot be ſtrong. I am going from what I have ſaid, to draw an excuſe for my want of memory; though the cauſe is very different, mine proceeding from the great genius of others, theirs from their own; but the effect is the ſame. The vaſt number and variety of objects at the Campidoglio, occaſioned ſuch a quick ſucceſſion of ideas, they have left, though a very ſtrong general impreſſion, that of par-

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ticulars very weak; for this reason I will leave them at present, not without gratitude to Lambertini for the amusement of the day, and the pleasing reflections which will frequently arise. The Romans, ever desirous of a new Pope, regard an election as the great holiday of the city. I am perfuaded they loft the excellent person above-mentioned without concern; though they have much regret he is not now alive. As for the Pontiff, who at present fills the throne, he had a trifling cold, and the hopes of all Rome were raised to the highest degree; a conclave was the subject of conversation, and the great number of strangers who would attend the event. I remember once hearing some French observe their votes were of no consequence on this occasion; for the Italians

always outwitted, or rather conquered them by falſehood; the latter is very extraordinary: where the honor of a Frenchman is concerned, I would depend upon his veracity, but as that is not even ſuppoſed to enter into political affairs, the Italians do wonders if they make a drawn battle. I can eaſily conceive they ſurpaſs the French in ſecrecy and ſilence, points very conſequential in the buſineſs of a conclave. The French certainly have a great talent for diſcerning ſentiments by countenances: the Italians as great in concealing them. The vanity of the former lays them open to thoſe who deſire to penetrate their ſchemes; pride is more reſerved. I have been aſſured, in a meeting of Cardinals, ſome of whom were Tranſalpine, the principal topic was the merits of French and Italian

pomatum. Though I know the ſpirit of trifling is great in one nation (of the other I am not ſo good a judge) yet I muſt ſuppoſe a fear of diſcovering their ſentiments on more conſequential ſubjects gave riſe to this. Whatever was the motive, the converſation was fooliſh enough, but a better employment much for their geniuſes, than when engaged in ſending fire and ſword all over Europe, and making acts, almoſt as abſurd, though not ſo innocent as Boileau's Burleſque Arrêt, from Parnaſſus, in favor of the Ariſtotelian principles. Que la terre ſe repoſe, que le ſoleil tourne autourd'elle; ſous peine d'excommunication, &c. if St. Dominick had been a Petit Maitre, lolling in the moſt luxurious carriage, it would have been happier for his cotempora-

ties, and many ſucceeding ages, than his walking barefooted ſeverities. The pleaſurable life of ſome churchmen, however unbecoming the ſanctity of their profeſſion, is yet more eligible, than the perſecuting troubleſome ſpirit of ſome of their turbulent ſaints. The inquiſition is here (and I believe now in every place) a meer form, and name; I ſhould not have known it exiſted, but from hearing Prince Corſini attended that aſſembly once or twice a week; which was the beſt time to ſee his palace. I do not think, at preſent, there is a place on earth where ſtrangers live with more liberty than Rome, and die with the ſame; this cannot be ſaid of France, where, for reaſons well known to themſelves, they chuſe to be troubleſome to the dying,

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and inſult the dead rather than living. I ſpeak of the people, or thoſe a few degrees above them; for the King and Court have always decided with juſtice and humanity, when application has been made upon theſe occaſions. I will conclude, after writing a bôn môt of Lambertini not mal à prôpôs to this ſubject. A French nobleman aſked, What he thought of the Bull Unigenitus? (concerning the Janſeniſts) the Pope replied; I think you are much to blame for making ſuch a noiſe about that affair, when we only regard it as a natural daughter of our predeceſſors, whom honor obliges us to ſupport. It is not wonderful Lambertini ſhould be the hero of my thoughts at Rome, particularly when juſt arrived from the Campidoglio, but every other idea will, in a moment be defaced, by thoſe

ariſing from the beauty and merit of her to whom I am,

Madam,

Rome.

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER L.

THE Villa Albani is a ſmall diſtance from the city. The building is not large enough for magnificence. Upon the firſt view it appears rather mean, being very low in proportion to the length. The ornaments are beautiful, ſome antique, and the imitations happily executed. The portico is handſome, ſupported by Egyptian pillars, and in niches are the ſtatues of the Cæſars, upon pedeſtals enriched with baſ-

ſo-

ſo-relievos; the Domitian is the only one entire of this prince; that circumſtance gives it no merit with me: I am better pleaſed with thoſe I can regard as monuments of deteſtation for a tyrant. In the firſt apartments are ſome fine veſſels of alabaſter, granite, &c. on the right is a chapel highly ornamented. In the gallery (the only room of tolerable ſize) there is a ſtatue of Pallas; from which one may imagine the ancients, as well as moderns, neglected her for Venus. There is another of Ino, with Bacchus in her arms: the pillars of this apartment are ſome antique Moſaic, the chapiters and baſes gilt, the cieling is painted, and highly finiſhed, by Mengs. Nothing can be more ornamented or dazzling than this palace in miniature. On deſcending are two porticos; in one, the buſts of the moſt

celebrated captains; in the other, of philoſophers, poets, and rhetoricians. On the right is a grove, on the left a little ap rtment, whoſe roof is ſupported by two large pillars, one an entire piece of flowered alabaſter. Here are ſeveral baſſo-relievos, and many learned curioſities of antiquity: to this is joined a ſmall Ionic temple, which makes a very beautiful perſpective to the grand portico; the deity is an Epheſian Diana. On the other ſide of the houſe is a ſemicircular portico, embelliſhed, or rather enriched, with many ſtatues; one of Theban alabaſter, much larger than the life: this, with regard to the ſubſtance, is the fineſt, and moſt curious, I ever ſaw; the figure of the deity repreſented, is equally horrid and ridiculous, as Egyptian divinities in general are: that nation could

not

not be accuſed of idolizing beauty; had they been as free from every other kind of idolatry, they would better have deſerved their reputation of wiſdom. True religion is for all the world, not to be confined to a few miſticks, or initiated. The gardens are neither large nor fine, except as they are ornamented with ſtatues, fountains, and all the curioſities, and imitations of antiquity, agreeable to the place. The preſent Cardinal Albani, who is a great virtuoſo, built and beautified this houſe and and villa, which was a vineyard. I think his eminence could never intend it as a habitation; in that light it is better adapted to pigmies than Romans; if he only propoſed to ſhew his taſte, the ſucceſs is anſwerable to his intention. I have been more particular than

uſual in my deſcription, as I ſhall not reviſit this villa; a day is much here, as a month at the Colonna palace, Vatican, or Campidoglio; the ſight was alone pleaſed this day; the mind had not exerciſe enough to be even content. From hence I will go to the modern, particularly portrait painters; in my way I will mention Mr. Hamilton, though that is not the firſt point of view in which he is to be conſidered; his merit is principally in hiſtorical pieces. He has no great finiſhed painting in his houſe at preſent; the death of Lucretia is not far enough advanced for me to form any judgment from the ſucceſs he has hitherto had in pictures of that ſtyle, I ſhould imagine this will be conſiderable. Battoni is generally eſteemed the firſt for his portraits; the reſemblances

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are ſtrong and ſtriking, I think they are very often caricaturas: I ſaw ſome of my acquaintance, to whom he had, by no means, done juſtice. He had one piece very fine; but there were circumſtances attending, which gave a merit beyond a common portrait, and he had ſucceeded in highly marking the requiſite expreſſion. Battoni has ſeveral hiſtorical pictures much eſteemed, in Rome, and ſome, I conclude you have ſeen in England. From Battoni I went to Maron, where I found my acquaintance better treated. As a meer portrait painter (and I do not know he attempts a higher merit) I think Maron deſerves to be ranked in the firſt claſs; the reſemblances he takes are both ſtrong and pleaſing, yet not flattering. Indeed I do not ſee why a Frenchman

may

may not equal an Italian in this branch of the art; I have obſerved, on other occaſions, they have great quickneſs, and juſtneſs of ſight, with a moſt extraordinary faculty of imitation; and for every other point requiſite to excellency in thoſe performances; thoſe who ſtudy in Italy may acquire them, and have the ſame advantage of the light in this country; though I ſhould imagine that is not ſo neceſſary for this ſtyle of painting, as landſchapes, and wherever a delicacy of perſpective makes a great part of the beauty of the picture. I have ſeen ſome fine portraits by Mignard, and other celebrated painters in France by accident, but never ſought for them, as however great their perfection may be, they have no merit, nor are otherwiſe amuſing, than one is acquainted

quainted with the perſons repreſented. An Italian Antiquarian accuſes the French, and us too, of a defect in taſte, and of our ideas of the beauties requiſite to form painters, &c. and even to judge of their excellencies, with regard to the French it may in ſome degree be true, they have it not in general ideas to ſucceed in pictures of imagination. I have heard a perſon deſcribed of exquiſite beauty, according to their notions; avec un air impoſant, des yeux noirs grands comme ceux du Roi, et un petit nex tourné en l'air. If they have taken up ſome part of this deſcription as a compliment to the King, they do not ſucceed: his Majeſty's features are too well adapted to his ſex, for any one to be pleaſing in a woman, according to the ge-

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neral idea of female perfection. As to us, no Italian ſhould think the Engliſh taſte defective; as near as poſſible we form it by theirs. Nor did I ever hear Engliſhmen accuſed of being inſenſible to Italian beauty. If we have no models at home, we ſeek and ſtudy theirs in all the arts and ſciences for which they are celebrated, We do not, like the French, pretend to have a muſic of our own, but court and imitate the Italian. As to living models, though the Engliſh faces may vie with any, and ſurpaſs moſt in exquiſite complexion, and delicacy of features, they have not ſo generally, the vivacity and expreſſiveneſs of the Italian countenances, yet without being leſs agreeable. But when I conſider to whom I am addreſſing myſelf, I can eaſily allow, that all

all the external charms of your ſex may unite, and yet not pretend to conſtitute the principal merit. I am,

Madam,

Rome.

With great eſteem,

Your moſt obedient, &c.

LETTER LI.

I AM this moment returned from viewing the triumphal arches; as I imagined, that at Orange has prevented any great effect, though perfectly plain, and theſe very much ornamented. I ſuppoſe the circumſtances in which the arch at Orange was erected, did not permit thoſe embelliſhments, leiſure, and the ſcience of the capital gave here;

or

or if it ever had any decorations, time has deſtroyed them. The arch at Orange has the advantage of being the only noble object for ſome leagues; in Rome the eye is accuſtomed to greatneſs. If my pleaſure did not riſe very high with regard to theſe pieces of antiquity, in general, I had a ſingular and exquiſite ſatisfaction in beholding the arch of Titus. Every monument of this excellent Emperor, is a juſtice rendered to his ſuperior virtue, and at the ſame time preſents the moſt perfect model to ſucceeding princes. I have often reflected with aſtoniſhment, Kings ſhould be ſo generally complimented by the name of Auguſtus, and ſeldom by that of Titus: I fear more have been like the former, than the latter; but truth does not determine the panegyriſt: therefore I conclude it is the

fame given to Auguſtus by the poets. Yet ſure the Deliciæ generis humanis, from the voice of the people, is more glorious than all the praiſe which flattery can invent. What a ſuperiority, in every reſpect, has Titus over Auguſtus! The former received his power from virtue, ſucceſſion, and election; the latter from an uſurpation, favoured by the friends of his uncle, and ſecured by the moſt conſummate cruelty, as long as that vile quality was convenient, when clemency became more ſo; for this, and no other, reaſon he uſurped that virtue, as he had done the throne. How different Titus, every action of his life proclaimed; and when, with tears, he ſaid, I have loſt a day, he might, with juſtice, ſcorn all other praiſe. The magic power of poets may raiſe a ſhadow where there

is no ſubſtance, as for Auguſtus. Titus required not their art; he knew, if even the thought was not beneath his greatneſs, poſſeſſing virtue herſelf, fame, whom others courted, muſt follow him, to her I leave thoſe here, and go to the Colloſſeum: this amphitheatre is larger than that at Niſmes, having had ſeats for fourſcore thouſand, the other twenty; the building is likewiſe more elegant; yet the remains at Niſmes being much greater, the effect is higher, and a better idea conveyed.—This moment I receive a letter, which calls me to England: I propoſed infinite pleaſure from the muſic of the holy week, and a farther indulgence, and improvement of my taſte for paintings and antiquities; but, as I am returning to your ſociety, I ſhall be much more compenſated for all the agrémens and

beauties

beauties I leave at Rome. The moſt pleaſing ſight that can engage attention, is a beautiful face; and the moſt exquiſite harmony, the voice of her one loves. With theſe ſentiments, in a higher degree, and with greater ſenſibility than La Bruyere ever poſſeſſed them, I am,

Madam,

Your moſt obedient, and

Rome.

Moſt humble ſervant.

FINIS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM